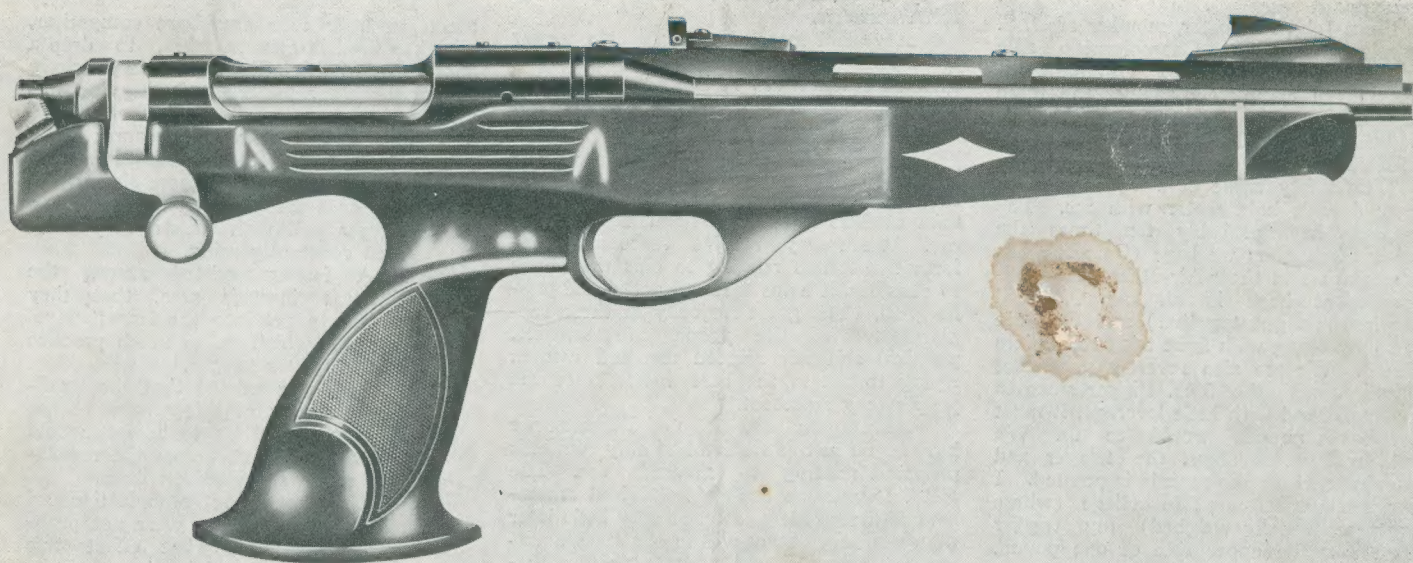


Precision SHOOTING

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REMINGTON MODEL XP-100 PISTOL AND
221 REMINGTON FIREBALL CARTRIDGE



a magazine for Shooters by Shooters

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TRIGGER PULL RULE ENFORCEMENT

As a result of prior comment on the mandatory strict enforcement of the three pound trigger pull rule for smallbore rifle competition, we have received four more letters from representative shooters. (Space in this issue does not permit publishing the rather long letters but here are some of the comments:

From John R. Foster, member of U. S. Olympic and World Championship rifle teams. "Because of my International interests I am completely against the three pound trigger rule. However, if the rule is on the books IT HAS TO BE ENFORCED."

"The safety angle of a three pound trigger doesn't hold water with me. The Europeans have probably ten times the number of shooters we have (Germany has more compete in their Air Rifle championships than we have in all our National championships put together) and they are able to get along with light triggers, juniors included. We are also severely penalizing the juniors with the 3 lb. trigger since to their small hand with little leverage, it must feel like ten pounds would to us. We should worry less about the trigger and more about where the muzzle is pointed. I know that until I went to college (where triggers are usually weighed) my trigger seldom saw the upper side of one pound, and I never shot anyone."

William J. Welker, Seattle, Washington, who personally approves of the 3 pound trigger rule, writes in part:

"With a background of 30 years shooting and working in all phases of Match shooting I have formed some pretty definite ideas.

"I believe that all rules should be enforced. Whether or not the individuals approve of any questioned rule, it should be enforced and lived up to until withdrawn. If strictly enforced, an unjust or unenforceable rule will soon be thrown out or amended, but if not enforced, it will linger on and cause friction when some shooters abide by it and others ignore it.—If the majority of shooters are opposed to it, let them speak up and work to get it rescinded."

Thomas J. Burns, Twin Falls, Idaho and Frank A. Evenden, Newton, New Jersey, have written in opposition to the 3 lb. trigger rule but have added little that is new to the discussion.

In this writer's opinion, the minimum 3 lb. trigger pull rule, which has been a rule in smallbore rifle competition for so long, has for too long been almost completely ignored. If the sudden strict enforcement of the rule in NRA registered competitions indicates a majority opposition to the rule, it should be and probably will be amended.

Letters in opposition to, or in favor of, the trigger pull rule **should not** be sent to Precision Shooting. They should be sent to the NRA headquarters in Washington, D. C., and there should be many of them. Such letters should be marked for attention of the appropriate shooting committee chairman.

Some questions this writer would now ask, are: Why should smallbore rifle be particularly picked for the sudden strict enforcement of the trigger pull rule? Will the trigger pull rules for other branches of the NRA registered competitive shooting program be similarly strictly and impartially enforced?

PHT

FIREARMS LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY

It seems to this writer that the shooting fraternity's strategy for action on firearms legislation is improving and is being executed more effectively.

The National Rifle Association service of Legislative Bulletins advising members of proposed legislation relating to their shooting interest in their respective states is prompt. This service costs money but is most valuable and is reason enough for every firearms owner and user to be an NRA member.

More and more shooting people appear to be recognizing the importance of letting their representatives in State and National legislative bodies know their opinions of proposed firearms legislation, and of even more importance, are doing just that. The legislators appreciate this, too. Some of them, perhaps many, are not too familiar with matters relating to firearms and their use. When they receive reasonable, informative letters relating to bills they have to consider, it helps them to act in the public good. The great majority of these representatives of the people are sensible, practical and fair minded men and women trying to act in the best interests of the people they represent.

Here in my own State of Vermont we have so far in this session had only two bills proposed relating to firearms use. The NRA Legislative Bulletins advised members of these bills as soon or very little later than the information was in our state newspapers. Shooters did contact their representatives in person or by letter (the latter the best way). One bill was adversely reported out of committee and killed. The other was withdrawn before being reported out of committee.

We got off easy. In our largely rural state a great many of our male legislators are gun owners and users. Shooters in some other states have had and are having much more difficult jobs on their hands, but they are tackling the jobs and in most cases are having some degree of success.

We should never think that the job is done with combatting undesirable legislation. When desirable legislation is proposed we should just as quickly and energetically advise our representatives of our support of it, and our reasons for so doing.

The mythical "George" isn't going to fight our battles for us. It is up to each of us as individuals to take our place in the line and do our part of the job.

PHT

CONNECTICUT TAKES DRASTIC ACTION

The following was reported in the April CONNECTICUT MARKSMAN, the monthly publication of the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association:

THE NORTHEASTER PRONE AND POSITION REGIONALS

"At a regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting, held at the Conn. State Rifle and Rev. Ass'n office on April 6, 1963, your Board voted to not register these two matches because of the mandatory rule as to the weighing of triggers.

"As this Marksman goes to press, it is contemplated that a prone and position match will be held on these same dates as scheduled, with the course of fire being the same, and the awards being similar or increased substantially.

"Although the vote was split, slightly favoring this action, everyone on both sides realized the seriousness of this matter. Even at this late date there is hope for further negotiations.

"We are sure everyone who has been a competitive shooter during the past ten years has at one time or another been on one side or the other on the question involving trigger weight. With the general acceptance of International Shooting and modern guns, this question has been debated more frequently and more accurately. While it is worthwhile to receive comments from all forms of competitions, the mandatory weighing rule has been applied to the smallbore competitor only.

"This Association would like very much to have each smallbore competitor, who has fired in our matches, to drop a short note to this office giving as concisely as possible your particular feelings on this matter.

"This action was voted because:

- 1) A strong feeling existed among the competitive smallbore shooters in this area who wished to fire with a trigger pull with which they have been constantly using.

- 2) A feeling existed among the shooters in this area, that they wished to get into the International shooting which takes much practice with a lighter trigger.

- 3) A feeling existed that the smallbore shooters of this area were not properly polled as to how it would affect their sport, before the mandatory rule was placed on them.

- 4) The sponsoring organizations of matches in this area were not properly polled as to what effects this mandatory rule might have on its conduct of matches.

"Both sides realized the serious consequences which might occur by the outcome of such a vote. These are:

- 1) The loss of Regional matches in this area.

- 2) The loss of Regional matches to the State Association.

- 3) The loss of an opportunity for many to gain a classification.

"Both sides sincerely hope that these consequences do not occur. They also hope that the shooting fraternity will in no way construe this act so as to indicate in any way a lack of support for the National Rifle Association. Your Board members are made up of practically all Life members of the N. R. A. and will support it for Life, however, those voting for not registering the matches feel the smallbore shooter, his sport, and his sponsors have not been heard properly."

(Editor's comment: This is not the first time that the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Ass'n has rejected sponsorship of a smallbore Regional Tournament because they objected to some of the N. R. A. requirements for the conduct of the matches. If my memory is correct, they did so in 1941, and the Vermont State Rifle and Pistol Ass'n sponsored and con-

ducted the Tournament that year.

Following the resumption of the N. R. A. Regional Tournament program after World War II, the Connecticut Association has sponsored and conducted the Northeastern prone Smallbore Regional on their Blue Trail Range. The entry of competitors in these matches during past years has been one of the largest, if not the largest in the country, approximately 200 plus.)

TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

March 9th and 10th the Modesto Rifle Club held its 5th Annual Gallery Championship Matches with the largest attendance ever showing up for a shoot at Modesto, 108 competitors.

There was a record established by Gerald Maloney of Sausalito (near San Francisco)—200 + 64 tens in the sitting position (any sights) in the Reserve category.

The match consisted of 20 shots in each of the four positions. The team match was for a four man team firing five shots in each of the four positions.

Individual winner was Ken Cummins of Sebastopol, Calif. with 789. Ken had fired a perfect score in the prone, sitting and kneeling positions. Following in second place was William Roos of Sacramento with a 788 (the same score which won him the January match at Modesto) and third was Fergus Ward from San Francisco with 787.

The winning team was the Albany Rifle Team with a score of 781 and first Master team was Olympic #1 with 776.

In addition to the awards given by the club, local merchants donated prizes (91) that were given away for the aggregate winners and some were awarded by drawing of target number on each relay.

Duane D. Jenner

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

At the Metropolitan Rifle League's Spring Individual and Two Man Team Match on March 17th, 53 fired the individual match and 21 teams the two man team match. Course of fire for each match was 40 shots at 100 yards, indoors, with telescope sights on the MRL reduced target.

Top five in the individual match were Lloyd Norton 40-35, G. Tomsen 40-32, J. Lantelme 40-31, R. Ott 40-31 and Roy Oster 40-31. Others firing 400 possible scores were John Crowley, Rans Triggs, Walter Tomsen, E. Clausen and R. Arrington. (G. Tomsen is Walt Tomsen's son, who started competing in these matches only last season.)

Top five in the team match were:

John Crowley	400-31
Winnie Carr	400-30
	—800-61
Barbara Norton	400-27
Lloyd Norton	400-33
	—800-60
E. Clausen	400-25
Harry Stone	400-34
	—800-59
Sam Tekulsky	400-23
Irwin Tekulsky	400-26
	—800-49
H. Swarts, Jr.	399-30
Roy Oster	400-34
	—799-64

Firing 800 possibles in the individual grand aggregate were Lloyd Norton 800-68, Rans Triggs 800-67, Roy Oster 800-65, John Crowley 800-61, G. Tomsen 800-61, Walter Tomsen 800-59 and E. Clausen 800-53. J. Lantelme was in 8th place with 799-65x's.

STOP GUESSING AT HANDLOADS

Compute them accurately with the Powley Computer for Handloaders, \$3.50; Pressure Charts by Chronograph, \$10.00 and then learn your trajectory with Powley's High Velocity Trajectory Charts, \$18.00—Or send in fired case with bullet marked to seating depth and \$10.00 and we will make these calculations for you. Ask for booklet.

HUTTON RIFLE RANCH ...

1043 Greenleaf Canyon, Topanga, California
Official Range of GUNS & AMMO Magazine

WESTERN OHIO RIFLE LEAGUE

At the end of the regular season for the Any Sight Division, Miami Valley and Annie Oakley teams were tied to first place, each with 7 matches won and 1 lost. In the shoot-off match to break the tie, Miami Valley defeated Annie Oakley by a score of 1936 to 1920. The IHC team was in the running until the final match (three teams with 6 to 1 record) when they were defeated by Miami Valley by a score of 1934 to 1906.

The Miami Valley team were also the champs in the iron sight division, with the North Dayton team in runner-up spot.

Robert Wright (Miami Valley) was high individual winner in both any and iron sight divisions. Second and third spots in the any sight division went to John Turnbull (IHC) and Frank Fecke (Miami Valley), and in the iron sight division to John Turnbull and Ollie Lauderman (North Dayton).

LETTERS

FROM AUSTRALIA:

Dear Phil Teachout:

This is my second year as a subscriber to P. S. and what a great little publication it is. No sooner does my copy arrive in the post and it is read from cover to cover. I am neither a bench rest nor small bore enthusiast but I soak it up—those articles on high power shooting are what I like.

Reading P. S. makes one realize how far behind we are here in Aussie when it comes to equipment and latest developments, etc. Then again when I read of the trouble some of you go to to get a score at 600-1000 yards and I recall the groups I have seen obtained with the humble obsolete .303 at similar distances, and on smaller bulls, it makes me wonder.

That article "British Match Rifle Shooting" in the August issue was interesting—and also a classical example of how tradition and unnecessary restrictions can hamper progress; well that's how I look at it. While on the subject of long range shooting I recall reading of the formation in 1955 of the Barry Long Range Club whose members shoot on a range in Barry, Scotland, where it is possible to go back to 2100 yards—now that is really throwing them, isn't it?

L. R. Humphrey
Canterbury, N. S. W.

AN OLD RIFLE MATCH:

Dear Sir:

I am now a regular reader of your really interesting publication and particularly appreciated the article on "British Match Rifle Shooting" by Dr. B. J. King in your Nov. issue. I do feel however that the writer closed on a rather pessimistic note, to quote:—

"The American shooter has infinitely greater chances to experiment with his rifle and ammunition with the result that a match between a British team employing their target rifles and an American team employing the Ameri-

COMING MATCHES

(We will list place, date, type and title of match, name of sponsoring organization, name and address of contact person, at a nominal flat rate of \$2.00 per insertion, prepaid with insertion order. Insertion orders must reach the Precision SHOOTING office, 64 Depot Street, Lyndonville, Vt., at least 45 days before date of match for single insertion orders. For multiple insertions, 30 days additional must be allowed for each additional insertion desired.)

Thomaston, Conn.: April 28, Wigwam Muzzle Loading Match. Wigwam Range, Conn. #109, Thomaston, Conn. Events for rifle, pistol and shotgun. For program and information write or call the Secretary, Gerald Kinzly, Guernseytown Road, Watertown, Conn., or Judson S. Darrow, Woodbury, Conn.

Thomaston, Conn.: May 5, Wigwam Bench Rest Match. Wigwam Range, Conn. #109, Thomaston, Conn. Special \$100.00 prize offered. Shooting will be for score only on NRA A-17 and A-32 targets at 100 yards. For program and information write or call the Secretary, Gerald Kinzly, Guernseytown Road, Watertown, Conn. or Executive Officer, Judson S. Darrow, Woodbury, Conn.

Thomaston, Conn.: May 19, Wigwam Small Bore Prone Match. Wigwam Range, Conn. #109, Thomaston, Conn. For programs and information write or call the Secretary, Gerald Kinzly, Guernseytown Road, Watertown, Conn. or Executive Officer, Judson S. Darrow, Woodbury, Conn.

Thomaston, Conn.: June 2nd, Wigwam International Type Small Bore Match. Wigwam Range, Conn. #109, Thomaston, Conn. Half International Course with iron sights, half course with scope. For programs and information write or call the Secretary, Gerald Kinzly, Guernseytown Road, Watertown, Conn. or the Executive Officer, Judson S. Darrow, Woodbury, Conn.

North Attleboro, Mass.: May 18 and 19, New England Outdoor Pistol Championship (NRA Reg.), 3 Gun Aggregate, Trophies for Awards. Angle Tree Stone Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Mrs. Janet Rhind, RFD 2, Box 716, North Attleboro, Mass.

can N. R. A. match rifle would ALMOST certainly be a foregone conclusion."

I am glad the Doctor said "almost" as it struck a note in my memory that took me back before the war and sent me searching in old newspaper files in our University library. In Feb. 1938, 20th to 23rd, to be exact, your U. S. S. Louisville made a courtesy visit to Adelaide after Sydney's 150th year celebrations. Entertainments were arranged for the sailors and marines, scenic tours etc. But what concerns us (P. S. readers) most is the Adelaide "Advertiser" report that:—

"A rifle match was fired during the afternoon (Feb. 21st) at the Port Adelaide range between 15 men from the Louisville (sailors and marines) and a team from the local Cyclists rifle club. The local team won by 1362 to 1306."

(Continued on Page Four)

LETTERS

(Continued from Page Three)

I shot with the Cyclists on that afternoon. The shoot was over 300 and 500 yds., and the sailors pitted their shiny Springfields against our much maligned, but fondly bedded, S. M. L. E. No. 1 Mk. 111's.

I could not help recalling at the time a statement attributed to my old favourite, Capt. E. C. Crossman, that he had "never seen the Springfield beaten in Competition."

Should an old naval man from the Louisville read this he may recall the occasion. I have a few pictures of that pleasant afternoon, though goodness knows a lot of water has gone under the bridge since then.

J. E. Mansfield

Adelaide, South Australia

(Editor's comment: The results of a match between teams of shooters of equal ability, one team shooting the present day N. R. A. match rifle with target sights and the other shooting the National Match grade 1903 Springfields with service sights, would be a foregone conclusion. We believe this is what Dr. King had in mind as progress in equipment.)

CASE SHOULDER AND NECK ANGLE:

Dear Phil:

I have some observations on the sharpness of the angle between shoulder and neck which may interest you and Mr. Pool (Sept. '62). I chambered my "K" Hornet with a reamer (mine) which had no radius between to 40° shoulder and neck.

The most interesting effect of this was an occasional case separation at this point on fire forming. The case necks in question were easily removed with wire brush so were not torn off by the .310 BSA Martini extractor, which has very little power anyway.

Unruptured cases were cut open and the brass seemed intact at this sharp corner but there was always a ring of ash adherent right at the edge of the inside of the shoulder and neck. This ash did not project into the lumen of the neck but extended backward maybe .010-.020 inch.

Both case separation and ash disposition disappeared when the sharp edge of the chamber was rounded off slightly with emery cloth. From the practical point of view a slight radius seems necessary.

Lloyd Roberts, M.D.
Ipswich, Mass.

REMINGTON FIREBALL

By Kent Bellah

Remington's new XP-100, a single shot bolt action pistol, chambered for the new .221 Remington Fireball cartridge, sets a new world's record for handgun velocity and long range accuracy. Weighing 3¾ pounds and 16¾" overall, with a 10½" barrel, it doesn't look kissin' kin to current automatic pistols and revolvers, and it isn't. It's more nearly competitive with rifles in design and ballistics. Terminal performance at 100 yards, and up to 250 yards and more is sensational. Still, it should be no surprise to people who know a short tube starts a bullet in true flight about as well as some long barrels, and sometimes better.

Short tube accuracy depends on the bullet leaving the bore in perfect alignment and in a uniform manner from shot to shot, with a proper charge of a suitable powder, and uniform bullets of a good design, that are close to groove diameter. These facts apply to any rifled tube, long or short, of course. The .221 Fireball case, a shortened and necked down version of the famous .222 Remington, seems to be just about the right capacity for near ultimate performance in the 10½" tube. The fac-

tory lists a 50 grain bullet at 2650 fps muzzle velocity. I haven't chronographed this or any reloads yet, but all indications are the figure is about right.

The XP-100 action is a bench rest type modification of the new Remington 700 rifle, and takes proof pressures in the 60,000 psi plus range that is common with the long tube version. Accuracy is just about as good as most production rifles fresh out of the box. We got groups as small as 1.3" at 100 yards, and my production gun (not a prototype) will stay under 2 moa with most loads, at that range.

Unfortunately, the sample gun arrived with only 100 factory cartridges. That isn't enough for a decent test, considering that some were expended with the factory open sights, and some others with various scope sights, and a few had to be saved for field tests on varmints. It's a dreadful thing to have to ration ammunition, and it takes a great deal of pleasure out of shooting. However, the groups were a real pleasure to look at, and the factory fodder seems more potent on varmints than a Hornet rifle.

Our best shooting reload was a 50 grain Speer bullet backed with 16.0 grains du Pont IMR 4227, ignited by CCI No. 400 standard small rifle primers. Another fine load was 17.5 grains IMR 4198 and the same bullet with CCI No. 450 Magnum small rifle primers, that seem to give better ignition in limited tests than the No. 400. These loads have been fired in only one gun, and they are subject to revision when we obtain pressure and velocity figures. They do give you a good starting point, provided you cut the charges a bit and work up for your particular gun, and components, using your technique.

We received sample loading dies from RCBS a day before the gun arrived. They are very fine dies, the same as all RCBS products, and dimensions were exactly correct. With the sizer set tight against a RCBS shell holder head, the case neck was not set back to cause excessive headspace. Cheaply made dies and shell holders are a major cause of unsatisfactory reloads in all metallic cartridges. \$13.50 is not a high price for quality dies. I don't know of any that average better quality than RCBS, although some other makes are good. The RCBS are also as durable as any, and highly finished inside.

In working up loads for any gun, especially those with a rather high working pressure as in modern cartridges, you'll find CCI primers of the correct type have an advantage. First, they give excellent ignition, and a type is made for various powders. The "Magnums" give prolonged, high temperature, with very little undesirable pressure increase due to excessive primer gas. The less pressure created by the primer the more uniform the pressure of the powder gas.

Another advantage, at least over some primers, they flatten more as pressure increases, somewhat like certain old corrosive types. As modern loads approach full charge they generally throw up a slight crater at the firing pin indentation. These factors permit you to roughly estimate full charge loads, or high pressure. Some primers do not give any visible indications of excessive pressure until it has reached the danger point, by blowing primers, locking the bolt, or giving hard extraction, often with the headstamp smeared on the head face.

It isn't sensible to work up to such excessive pressures unless you are doing experimental work and firing by remote control, in guns that are expendable. Sometimes pressure is marginal, and is indicated

in only one round, or a few out of many. No two cases are exactly alike in the same lot number, any more than all links in a chain are exactly the same strength. Did you ever hear of all links in a chain breaking at the same time? I haven't either.

Pressure in reasonably high limits is good. It gives modern arms high efficiency. But a bit too much powder added to the top loads can run pressure out of sight. The XP-100 has a desirable enclosed case, for an extra margin of safety.

Loading is no problem. We seated bullets for a hair shorter overall cartridge length than factory ammo. This may require a minor revision for the ultimate accuracy, depending on the powder and bullet, after more testing is done. Once fired cases were faced off barely enough to square the mouths in a Forster Precision Case Trimmer, then lightly de-burred inside and still lighter outside. This is our standard practice, except for straight wall handgun cases and any case that will be loaded with bullets having practically no radius, with a sharp base edge. For these, cases are chamfered rather heavily inside, and de-burred lightly outside.

The Forster trimmer is by far my choice. Cases are inspected visually for a uniform mouth wall thickness after trimming, and before deburring. This is adequate for reasonable uniformity if several cases are visually inspected at a time in good light. Of course it isn't as accurate as using the Case Wall Mike, such as supplied by L. E. Wilson, or a similar home-made mike. We discarded two cases that had walls that "looked" a bit thin on one side. Uniform mouths are just as important for pistols as for rifles.

While the XP-100 pistol seems to have production rifle accuracy, it is a bit harder to hold and shoot, of course. It holds nicely across bench rest sand bags, and you can shoot it accurately from nearly any two-hand position. You'd be surprised how well it shoots while standing on your hind legs, holding the forearm with your left hand (if you are right handed) as you would a rifle.

We tested the XP-100 with several scopes. The Bushnell 1.3x Phantom Pistol Scope, at only \$29.50 complete with mount, has an eye relief of about 6" to 21". The magnification is adequate for most field shooting, and the little glass is short, light and compact. It gives the advantage of optical sights at low cost. It's quite adequate for all normal range field shooting with revolvers that are fired off-hand, or with a two-hand hold.

The target shooters and long range varmint hunters are going to want more scope power than the Phantom provides. The XP-100 is drilled for the same mounts used on the Remington 722, 725, and their new and nicer 700 short action rifles. In my opinion there is no better mount than a Buehler. Use their one-piece base, Code 22. All Buehler rings fit all Buehler bases, of course. We tried a Weaver K-3 and K-4 rifle scope, and settled on the K-4. Remove the rear sight before installing the glass. Weaver K scopes are specified because the eye relief is longer than most, and not critical. That is highly desirable on heavy recoiling rifles, and any pistol. The cross hairs are constantly centered, also desirable.

The rifle glass is best for nearly all rest shooting. You can hold the pistol in the right hand that is held in the left, with the left elbow braced against the body, if you are right handed. Since the gun is beautifully balanced, this is a fairly steady hold. We mounted the scope so the eye piece extends 2" past the firing pin head

while it's in the fired position. You may want to vary this figure to your requirements, but it's a starting place.

The Remington people must have given the XP-100 a great deal of study and hard work. It's reflected in the excellent balance and stock design, that keeps a quite large and long gun from being awkward and clumsy. Regardless of your views on plastic rifle stocks, the Nylon stock seems to be as good as can be made. It holds beautifully in either the right or left hand. The ventilated rib probably does much to stiffen the barrel and aid accuracy. The trigger feels like a custom tune-up job, and is superb, at least on my gun, just as it came from the large and neat zippered and padded carrying case.

The gun lacks the looks and flavor of Old West guns. It isn't a military or police type weapon, or suitable for defense or the fast draw. It wasn't designed for the average guy who wants a rifle or handgun, but the growing number of people, including myself, who want the ultimate accuracy in a target and varmint (or game) pistol. It competes with rifles, in a compact form. The deadly long range accuracy eliminates the need for more than one shot for nearly any thing it was designed for. You can't spray a stream of singing lead across the country side. It's strictly a sporter.

Glass it, and it has a "space gun" look, in case you have a space gun for comparison. At least it's different, and modern looking. The chaps who want it, and I trust they are many, will be much more interested in performance than in looks. A friend with the factory tells me they got a good many $\frac{3}{4}$ " groups at 100 yards, with factory ammo. Granted the stuff is carefully loaded, and I didn't do quite that well, but I had a very limited amount of ammunition. I've never fired an automatic pistol or revolver that shot close to the XP-100.

I've told the world in this journal, as well as others I write for, including GUNS Magazine, and THE GUN DIGEST, that we needed a quality single shot pistol. This one fills the bill perfectly. The cute little rimless cartridge is just right, in my opinion. Recoil is practically nil, and the report is mild. I hope you pistol and rifle fans will use it to help promote bench rest pistol shooting in your area. Remember a few years ago riflemen were satisfied with groups that looked like shotgun patterns? Do you realize how fast a dedicated group of bench resters screwed down groups until all the shots nearly go in one hole?

These riflemen, and they are entirely too few even today, are due much credit for the newer cartridges and better accuracy in factory loads that we have today. Wildcatters, bless 'em, created something for the giant arms and ammo makers to aim at. Handloaders, and may their tribe increase, have been wildcatters, bench resters, and the real accuracy fans that gave our modern arms and ammo a much needed shot in the arm. Now Remington has a pistol, more than "a trifle like a rifle," that may spark an entirely new shooting game.

Let's hope the good people at Remington see fit to supply the XP-100 chambered for popular handgun cartridges, such as the .38 Special and .357 Magnum. It would be ideal for testing factory ammo and reloads for chaps who do not have a machine rest or fixed test barrel available. Even a machine rest doesn't tell anything about the accuracy of ammunition. It merely tells how well a load shoots in a particular gun. Guns vary, nearly as much as women. A XP-100 would be a fine target and field gun, and serve as a test barrel. What the pistol bench resters would do to it is something I don't know. Be assured it will be

plenty! Our current average long range conventional handgun groups are mighty lousy indeed.

I was interested in the Sisk-Bellah "Revolver" bullets that I designed for hot-shot revolvers, for maximum efficiency. They are too "tender" for the super Hi-V .221 Fireball at full throttle, so that accuracy suffers severely. Chaps who use the factory iron sights, or limit their varmint shooting to moderate range with a scope, will find the bullets give fast, violent expansion with reduced loads. Best bullet seems to be the 50 grain Hollow Point. Best charge seems to be 10.0 grains 2400 with CCI No. 400 small rifle primers. The 2400 makes more muzzle flash than either 4227 or 4198. The No. 450 Magnum primer doesn't seem to be necessary. We haven't played with these bullets very much, and a better load may be available later.

Reduced loads with rifle type bullets do not give adequate expansion on varmints, as expected. We got good groups with 50 grain Hornady S-X and the new Sierra Blitz pills. These, and the Speer, are all suitable bullets in .224 diameter. The Hornady Jet, that is excellent in the Smith & Wesson .22 Magnum, and the wildcat Harvey Kay-Chuk, is .222 diameter. The RCBS Fireball dies do not size cases enough to hold these bullets. I sized the necks in another die, and tried the Jets. No load tested was as accurate as .224 bullets made by Hornady, Speer or Sierra, as expected.

Our reload groups have had to be spread pretty thin to date, and in only one gun. We'll know a great deal more about reloads after testing several guns and a great deal of paper and field shooting. I suggest you grab one of the first available XP-100 pistols if you have to hock your Sunday suit, and get started in a thrilling new fascinating game. Glass it, and you'll have more fun than ever before. Your less fortunate friends will be dumbfounded at the accuracy, and I'll wager you can win a steak dinner with your groups!

THE SHOP

By Roy F. Dunlap

Fellow said he had trouble glass-bedding bolt rifles, glass getting in slots, etc. Get a dime's worth of modelling clay and fill up slots, cuts, pin holes.

Lot of shooters, both smallbore and big-bore, are losing a little accuracy without knowing it by taking out all over-travel in their triggers. When that sear is released it wants to go down without interference. If it has to scrape down past a trigger nose or secondary sear it can resist travel of the firing pin or cocking piece across top, both slowing firing pin and throwing out straight-line travel. Everybody wants his trigger to feel perfect, only he tests it by dry-firing, and you can feel anything you want to that way. Only, even with a .22, you'll never notice over-travel when actually firing. Unless you concentrate hard on it, in which case, better give up shooting, because if you can think or notice anything at all besides the sight picture when firing you'll never be even a good third-rater. In centerfires, the bolt position often changes when a cartridge is in the chamber, changing pull quite a bit sometimes. Especially in the Mauser type actions, which includes Springfields and 1917 Enfields. Put a fired case in the chamber when adjusting triggers on such rifles.

Haven't heard anything new lately, except that the German RWS R-50 .22 ammo proved to be as good as rumored last Spring. And the Finns have some .22 shorts that really shoot. Which brings us to Dan Carroll's contention that we need the .22 long rifle like a hole in the head.

The case, designed to hold enough black powder to get the bullet out a hundred yards, is far over capacity for present powders. The charge gets lost in the case, pressure vary, the crimp on bullet is very critical, hard to get perfect priming uniformly down the long tube, etc. The normal match bullet could be loaded in the short case to normal velocities and allow uniform accurate loading in manufacture.

Have solved business of crosshairs in spotting scopes, for people who take an idle interest in watching aiming points drifting around in mirage. Just another thing to drive big-bore coaches over the hill to the asylum, too.

Someone with time on his hands and lots of catalogs and magazines could make himself a few nickels by working up a real source-of-supply list. Occurred to me while spending a couple hours looking for Johnson Arms' address. Source problems are a pain. My own are mostly out of the ordinary gun interest field, but how often do you think of some item you've seen advertised or heard of a couple of years back and then sweat out dozens of old magazines trying to find out the dope? I cooked up an install-it-yourself spirit level attachment for front sights—and spent four weeks locating a maker of the small special-size vials needed.

Stock wood situation getting worse all the time. The English walnut of California is going to Belgium, in shiploads, coming back as "finest European walnut." Now I hear the Finns are in the act, and that the Spanish are buying up black walnut in mid-west, etc. The Europeans have designed an electronic kiln of some sort—take green wood, cure it in a very few hours. These cost \$190,000. Each. And not one U. S. lumber outfit will consider buying one. Use the old kiln and take 71 to 78 days for black walnut, or air dry it, which means nothing whatever.

Any of you wealthier-type handloaders interested in expensive micrometers for checking bullet diameter and such? Direct-reading dial job, like the odometer in your car speedometer, with big barrel sleeve set-up that lets you split a ten-thousandth three ways with the naked eye. I had three made up in Europe, gone now, but will order more if people are interested. Price, \$60.00! This isn't exactly an advertisement—what I'm leading up to is that I used one of these to check a batch of bullets, and it's shocking what turns up on that big vernier scale! Pick out a batch of nice uniform bullets with a regular mike, reading in tenths, then divide them into many matches with the big mike . . . Our best bullets ain't near as best as I thought they was.

Tried a Johnson gain-twist barrel in .30, in a .30/338 bullgun. Results; under-size bore—about .29975". Decided to try anyway. No pressure troubles with heavy loads—69 grs. 4350 and 200 gr. Sierra. Dropped to 67 grs. for shooting, account of 67 gives as good results on target at long range. Very skimpy 200 yard testing, but the 200 gr. bullet obviously better than 190 or 180. No extraction problems, no primer worries. Only, shoot about ten shots and bullets start coming apart in the air, anywhere from 50 to 200 yards out. At 1000 yards, first nine shots good for V ring, tenth didn't get there. Am wondering if the under-size bore means rifling cutting so deep that jackets weaken and open up from the centrifugal force of spin. Barrel was zero to 10" twist. Heat of firing of course constricts bore initially, or at least I've always figured that the bore heats first, constricts, then as the entire mass of barrel

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The Shop

(Continued from Page Five)

heats, the whole works expands and eventually the bore is larger than when cold. I wish to make it plain that I am not criticizing Johnson—the barrel is accurate, gives high velocity with low pressures, comparatively speaking, and so forth. Nobody made me go ahead and try it with the tight bore—it was my own idea. Just want to throw the deal into the laps of you educated people and see what theories pop up as opposed to mine. One thing sure—velocity has nothing to do with it—the same bullets held up under much higher velocities.

The Devcon Plastic Steel proves OK for bedding, is easier than fiberglass for round receivers and Mausers, harder for M70's—the deep recoil lug being the difference. But an extra coating of release agent on front of lug and receiver ring, helps. Use the Liquid type plastic steel. My marine fiberglass sets about as hard as plastic steel, but has more shrinkage, from "feel" in removing barrel and action from stock, though you don't exactly lift out with either. Have to file or stone off any burrs or irregularities on lug or any straight surface on receiver, when using either steel or glass.

The new Winchester .300 Magnum no doubt will be our next long-range caliber. Looks like a .30/338 stretched out an eighth inch on back end. Case too long for use through standard-length actions, but allows bullet to be seated out pretty well for magnum-length, made for H & H cartridges. Winchester says reason for new case is that the .30/338 just don't lend itself to accurate machine loading.

NEW BARRELMAKER IN ST. LOUIS

By John H. Culling

St. Louis, Missouri, now boasts its own barrelmaker and general gunsmithing service. Nu-Line Guns, Incorporated, 5127 Natural Bridge, St. Louis 15, Missouri, recently bought out the well-known Ted Holmes Gun Shop of Mattoon, Illinois, lock, stock and barrel, and then some. The purchase included barrelmaking equipment, over 200 different standard and wildcat chambering reamers, over 500 extra barrel blanks, tons of alloy and stainless barrel reamers, drills, and rifling heads, stock blanks, etc.

The Nu-Line Gun Shop is run by Jerry Stevens, an exceptionally bright young man, who displays a keen interest in all the latest methods. Jerry's father, Roy Stevens, has operated a sporting goods store at this address for years. I have personally bought, sold, and traded many antique and modern guns with Roy and learned years ago that his word was as good as any signed contract. Nu-Line has done some gunsmithing, bluing and chromium-plating for a long time but decided to go all the way recently. Their modern shop was added on the old facilities about three years ago, and today, they are the best equipped independent shop in the midwest.

It took four men three days of loading to transport the equipment from Mattoon to St. Louis, and Ted Holmes spent a good deal of time acquainting the Nu-Line personnel with the equipment and method of making accurate barrels. In the photo may be seen from left to right: John Freeman, Ted Holmes, Roy Stevens, Jerry Stevens, and Bill Davis (all except Ted being Nu-Line personnel).

At present they are turning out custom barrels in 15 days or less. They actually made a 6mm-'06 improved target grade barrel in one day while the customer waited.



Ted Holmes (second from left) advises Nu-Line Guns, Inc. personnel (from left) John Freeman, Jerry Stevens (owner) and Bill Davis, in the operation of the barrel rifling machine.

The first 20 barrels turned out by Nu-Line grouped $\frac{1}{2}$ " or less at 100 yards the first day out, during case fire-forming and work-up of charges. Their barrels are all made of chrome-moly or stainless steel.

In addition to barrelmaking and general gunsmithing on rifles and hand guns, Nu-Line does stock and specialty work. Some of their unusual recent jobs that caught my eye were two '98 Mausers with actions shortened to .22/.250 length, a Winchester Hi Wall barreled to .17 Bee, a custom Luger converted to .45 ACP, a 20-shot clip made for the Garand, and a single-action revolver now being built to handle the .45-70 cartridge. All calibers from .17 to .50 are offered. Custom ammo as well as a rather complete line of obsolete caliber cartridges are also available. Action sleeves may be ordered. They also produce ring blocks for those desiring free-floating actions and barrels. All mail inquiries are answered promptly.

Nu-Line should be a shop to enjoy rapid growth and prosperity if the enthusiasm and kind of service being offered is any indication.

BARREL BEND AND DROOP

By Homer S. Powley

Dear Phil:

It is very interesting to note all the discussion pertaining to lack of straightness in barrels. You have this out of the horse's mouth from men who know.

Even with perfect machining methods and perfectly homogenous steel, a barrel, as used, cannot be perfectly straight because the barrel will bend under its own weight. In fact, those who have Sweeney Bore Collimators can watch a barrel move from the pressure of a little finger.

Following is taken from some old notes of mine:

It should be of interest to examine the bending of a barrel due to its own weight. The moment of inertia has to be known for the particular shape of metal. For a hollow cylinder, the moment of inertia, I , is calculated from:

$$I = \frac{\pi (R^4 - r^4)}{4} \quad (74)$$

For a beam supported horizontally at one end, the amount of downward deflection, d , at the other free end is calculated from: (75)

$$d = \frac{wL^4}{8EI}$$

where w is the weight per unit length, L is the unsupported length and E is Young's Modulus.

For a beam supported horizontally at both ends, the amount of downward deflection in the center, due to sag, is given from: (76)

$$d = \frac{5wL^4}{384EI}$$

We have carried out a few calculations with these equations. For a tube of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch inside diameter and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch outside diameter supported at one end, the deflection is 0.0072 inch if 22 inches are unsupported. For the same tube 24 inches long and supported at the ends, the center deflection is 0.0011 inch. Young's Modulus was taken as 30,000,000.

For a tube $\frac{1}{4}$ inch inside diameter and 1.00 inch outside diameter, supported at one end and unsupported for 22 inches, the deflection is 0.0045 inch and when 24 inches long supported at both ends the deflection is 0.00064 inch.

The case of the tube supported at both ends corresponds to the condition of a barrel being turned in a lathe. The case of the tube supported at one end only corresponds to the condition existing with a rifle barrel, horizontal, supported in an action and unsupported by the forestock, a "free floating" barrel. The deflection is called "droop."

With a free floating barrel, the sudden flow of a column of gas behind the projectile into a drooping barrel will cause it to momentarily become turgid and straighten up just as does a garden hose when the water is suddenly turned on. This means that the end of the barrel will be in motion at the time of projectile departure. This will produce a side thrust on the projectile and gyroscopic action will impose yaw. Notice that the heavier walled tube does not have as much deflection and the speed of its lateral movement at the time of projectile de-

parture is probably less. Yaw depends upon other things as well so there is no necessary bad effect in either case. The heavier walled tube will weigh more and will have less recoil velocity than the smaller tube. It is known that with relatively freely held rifles, the ones with heavy barrels seem to produce better accuracy than the ones with light barrels. There are so many other factors governing accuracy that one cannot say that better accuracy is due to a heavier barrel, *per se*.

In 1896 with Koch, the world-famous ballistician Dr. Carl Cranz of Germany made photographic records of the vibration of rifle barrels during firing. The fundamental vibration was not completed before the bullet had left. The vibrations were found to describe an ellipse and the effect of harmonic vibrations, especially the first and third, were found to be the most influential on the lateral and vertical motions transmitted to the bullet as it left the muzzle. Changes in powder charge were made which changed the time of travel with the result that a change in the lateral or vertical throw of the bullet could be made. However, it is to be noted that these were large changes in powder charge and not the relatively small increments of change which some handloaders use in an attempt to improve accuracy. Dr. Cranz also made photographic records of the change in vibration characteristics produced by the application of forces in various directions by adding weights, such as a bayonet, and noted the change in point of impact with reference to the sight line.

For a given cartridge, lighter bullets are given higher muzzle velocities with resultant lessening of barrel time and consequent change of point of impact with reference to a fixed line of sight. This frequently gives rise to the apparent anomaly that a light bullet at higher velocity than a heavy bullet at lower velocity will have a point of impact lower than the slower bullet, at a given range. Unless care is taken to recall the effect of the barrel vibration, an improper conclusion may be drawn concerning the drop characteristics of various cartridges.

With a tube supported near the ends, the condition for the minimum amount of center deflection is satisfied if the tube is supported 22.3% of its length in towards the center from each end. In this case the deflection is calculated by:

(77)

$$d = \frac{wL^4}{3715.5 EI}$$

The droop of the overhang is then calculated by Equation (75).

For a tube supported near the ends, the condition for having both ends exactly horizontal is satisfied if the tube is supported 21% of its length in towards the center from each end. The center deflection is then calculated by:

(78)

$$d = \frac{wL^4}{1664 EI}$$

Dr. Mann's famous design of a machine rest for barrels apparently satisfied these latter conditions closely. It is evident from Equation (75) that the amount of unsupported length of a barrel will determine how closely a bore-sighting of same might compare with the line of departure of the projectile. It is interesting also to notice that the amount of droop is dependent upon the

cube of the length of barrels. The reader is referred to mechanical engineering handbooks for the effect on the various deflections of various pressures which may be applied.

MORE ABOUT BARREL STRAIGHTNESS

From G. R. Douglas

Dear Phil:

Having just read what was said in the last issue of Precision Shooting (Feb.) regarding the question posed by Fred Hallberg relative to crooked rifle barrels, I am very forcefully reminded that I have not finished what I had written at your invitation on this subject, some time ago.

The fact is that about the time I had finished what I had planned to say, I got him with the "flu" bug and just haven't felt like writing or doing much of anything since. Some of my men, as well as my foreman, have been sick too, and all this has complicated things for us, some.

Regarding the questions posed by Fred Hallberg's article, I suspect that Mr. Hallberg already knew the answers to his own questions along this line, and was perhaps seeking verification from others, or perhaps just wished to stir up the waters to see what would happen. Either situation deserves an answer, as matters of this sort ARE pertinent, and should be explored from time to time as knowledge in all fields is constantly changing and expanding.

It seems that Mr. Hallberg's stirring the waters has produced some excellent comments from some very able people and I should think that he has been satisfactorily answered, for the most part, but I will endeavor at this late date to condense what I had already written in the hope that I can both fulfill my promise to you and at the same time add something to what has already been well said, or just to help verify or disagree with what has been said on this matter.

First of all, a TRULY STRAIGHT rifle barrel is nearly if not truly impossible. Nothing is ever truly STRAIGHT, except light beams and they are crooked sometimes!!!

As a practical matter however, a rifle barrel can be so nearly straight as to be classified as straight within the limitations of the art and science that produced it, and that is the straightness or lack of it that we are talking about.

Straight rifle barrels, within the meaning as above stated, are hard to come by, generally. The straightness of rifle barrels will depend on many factors, most of which vary from one gun barrel manufacturing shop to another. Some of these things are: Quality of the raw material; nature of the raw material; constant control of quality of raw material; heat treatment of raw material; machinability of raw material; condition of tools; knowledge and experience of the manufacturing personnel, and a dozen or so other related factors. All of these have some bearing on the ability of any shop to produce more or less straight rifle barrels. (To drill straight holes, I mean—NOT straightened holes.) No problem in my shop has had as much attention as the matter of getting STRAIGHT DRILLED HOLES in our blanks, AS DRILLED. To this end we have experimented over the years, and have come presently (within the last 3 or 4 years) to what we consider acceptable. To do this, among other things, we finally came to make our own deep drills from solid Tungsten Carbide, which drills will outperform five to one over other drills in terms of AMOUNT and QUALITY of work produced.

These statements are made just to show that straight rifle barrels are few and far between, and that usually when a barrel is installed in the action, and fitted into the stock, if it were straight to start with, it is probably no longer straight in use, and if straight at one time it will not usually stay that way because of the changing nature of the wood in the stock.

Therefore we can consider that almost all rifle barrels are CROOKED (in use at least) to some extent. If a straight rifle barrel is stocked with a little forearm pressure, as is sometimes recommended, it will not then be straight but bent upwards. If it is free floated it will droop when held in the horizontal position. One may say this is nothing. Measure it and you will see that the droop is readily detectable in the light shadow in the barrel. With a big target barrel, the droop may be several thousandths of an inch. Under such conditions the barrel certainly is not straight. As we see many fine rifles perform well under these conditions we certainly must conclude that at least THIS amount of crookedness does no harm that we can see.

Drawing some broad conclusions then, that as we know that very few rifle barrels are truly straight in use, and that there are MANY, MANY rifle barrels giving fine performance for their owners, we must of necessity conclude that minor curvature of a rifle barrel does little or no harm, and that there are certainly other factors more important in the attainment of accuracy from rifle barrels.

In the foregoing we have been talking about small amounts of barrel curvature, say not more than 3 or 4 thousandths out at the middle of the barrel (which is readily detectable in the shadow pattern). More curvature than this might give some spread on the target with the bullets falling in a line parallel to the plane of the bend of the barrel. This might come about and it might not, depending on the constancy of the velocity of the loads. The bend might cause the barrel to vibrate in the plane of the curve, and if the velocity were not constant enough, the vibration would cause the group to string out. This effect would be greater, of course, with light barrels. Actually this is what heavy barrels are used for—to act as a flywheel, so to speak, to iron out or absorb all kinds of forces that might act on the rifle while the bullet is yet in the barrel, and keep the rifle POINT-ED where you want it, at least until the bullet leaves the barrel.

As I said in the beginning, these matters have been well covered by some able people, and what I have said up to this point probably could have been said in fewer words by more able writers. I do want to emphasize what was said regarding the advisability of the barrel fitter trying to straighten barrels. EMPHATICALLY NO!

First, because to straighten a barrel is to HARM it for MOST uses. No straightened barrel will shoot as constant in holding its zero as will a barrel that has not been straightened. This is because a straightened barrel has had its "fibres broken," so to speak, wherever it is "bent" (as straightening is bending of a long curve into several small curves) and these points constitute weak places in the barrel and with temperature or force change, the barrel tends to want to go back where it was before it was straightened and usually produces "stringy" groups during course of fire.

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Random Shots

By Betty Summerall Duncan

STIDWORTHY SUBDUES WILDCATS

The reigning sovereign of the Western Wildcats Kingdom for 1963 is none other than George Stidworthy! You will recall that George established a rather unique record during 1962—he was runner-up in eight tournaments out of a possible eleven. It was no "second-rate" shooter, however, who won the Annual Western Wildcats Mid-Winter 6400-point Smallbore Prone Championship in Phoenix on February 28th, March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd! With T/Sgt. Edward E. Caygle, Jr., USAF, and Pacific States Fall Round-Up Champ Tom Guerin breathing down his neck, it took real "know how," intense concentration, immeasurable determination, and a great deal of (Pres Kendall's) "guts" to take the lead on the third day and hold onto it.

Stidworthy's winning score of 6381-472X over Caygle's 6380-474X and Guerin's 6380-443X won't make history in the record books, but we who were there appreciate the caliber of shooting it took to get by with only 19 points down. Half of the Master Class dropped that many points in the first two matches.

Winds at times were almost cyclonic in force. They cavorted, they swirled, they snatched targets and backers off the frames and gently tossed them over the mountain back stop, and then—they wandered off stage only to appear and reappear capriciously. Triggers, actions, and barrels suffered the full impact of the blowing desert sands. These were hardly 1600 conditions, and none were fired during the four days.

Sixteen states were represented among the 110 competitors, including Ariz., Calif., Colo., Ga., Idaho, Iowa, La., Mont., N. M., Nev., N. D., Ohio, Ore., S. D., and Texas. We were delighted to see two Pennsylvania shooters, C. H. "Bob" Kline (Nat'l Canadian Metallic Sight Champ) from Lock Haven, and Charlie Morris from Pittsburgh. The entry was obviously hurt by Rule 9.14, but the more serious shooters, especially the aspirants for the Int'l Prone Team and several Pan Am Team members, who could take time off from their bread-winning obligations, were on hand . . . The Master Class was exceedingly top-heavy, numbering 60—with 21 Experts, 11 Sharpshooters, 11 Marksman, and 7 Unclassified—which made for good, hot competition.

Ed Caygle lost no time in settling down to serious shooting and his 399-30X took the opening Dewar metallic over Dick Hanson's 398-24X and Raymond Sargent's 397-26X . . . Three points down clinched the 100-yd. metallic, which went to Stidworthy with 24Xs. Tom Guerin was second—397-17X; Vic Auer, third—396-21X. . . . Conditions were somewhat more complacent for the 50-meter, which netted the first possible of the day—Caygle's 400-31X. Auer had 399-34X, with George Whittington 2Xs behind . . . Scores and conditions appeared more normal in the 50-yd., which produced fifteen clean scores. Again it was Caygle out in front with 400-37X over Stidworthy's 400-35X. Raymond Sargent, Lt. Lones Wigger, Jr., USA, and Herb Hollister followed with 400-33X.

(You will note that I am frequently omitting the mention of home towns. Most of you already know the vital statistics on the top shooters, and those who don't, will, if you keep reading Random Shots).

I would imagine that you've already picked the winner of the first Metallic Sight Aggregate. After leading in three of the

four matches, Ed Caygle, pride of the USAF Int'l Smallbore Team, just naturally staked his claim to the Agg. His 1594-115X led Tom Guerin's 1592-101X, Stidworthy's 1591-111X, and Army M/Sgt. William E. Krilling's 1590-104X . . . Judy Saffell, the inimitable junior from San Pedro, Calif., took Hi Expert honors for her 1570-67X over J. W. Woolrey, Canon City, Colo., with 1563-70X. Kurt Degerlund of Las Vegas was high SS—1570-83X; George Rodenberg, Jr., Ft. Bliss, Tex., high Mk—1562-56X; and, Bobby Smith, Vandenberg AFB, high Unclassified—1532-46X.

Beginners don't make all of the mistakes! Emmett Duncan has been kidded unmercifully about his crossfiring spree at last year's Wildcat tournament (and has been a good sport through it all). Emmett, you will be happy to know that your (mythical) crossfiring brassard has changed hands so we'll give you a rest and pick on the new owner for awhile—former Nat'l Champ Vic Auer. Vic, however, did the damage on his own target, firing 7 shots on the top bull and 13 on the bottom. It only cost him the 100-yd. metallic sight match, as he was clean on that stage. With 3 penalty points, he still placed third.

Friday was the calmest day of the four and atmospheric conditions were conducive to fairly respectable scores with scope. Edward Lane Creedmoored Hollister with 400-37X in the Dewar. Archie Bell was 3rd with 400-36X. I shouldn't tell this on Herb, but it's too good to keep. He commented, "This is the story of my life—to shoot 37Xs and get beaten out by someone I've never heard of." I began a bit of detective work to find Ed Lane, and the stat office informed me that he is from Mercury, Nevada. I finally located a shooter from Nev. who just happened to be talking to Ed Lane. I said, "Ed, come with me. I want you to meet Herb Hollister." Ed replied, "I know Herb. I rode back from Perry with him in 1961!" . . . In all fairness to Herb, he apparently experiences the same difficulty with names that many of us do. He recognized Ed Lane immediately when he saw him. Ed is a quiet sort of fellow and hasn't been shooting lately, so he threw all of us for a loop.

Getting back to the scope matches, former All-Air Force shooter Dick Hanson was out in front at 100-yds. with 400-32X. Bob Boydston placed second—400-31X, Creed Page, third—400-29X. . . . George Whittington was bearing down at 50-meters to the tune of 400-35X, followed by Caygle and Charles Morris with 40-34X. . . . Bill Grater Creedmoored Stidworthy with 400-39X at 50-yds. Krilling was third with 400-38X. Scores more closely approximated normalcy in this match than in any of the sixteen, with 36 possibles.

Stidworthy cashed in on his usual high X-count and won the first Any Sight Aggregate with the best of eight 1599s. His X total was 142. Krilling had 133X, Wigger 131X, Caygle 126X, Hanson 124X, Archie Bell 121X, Lt. Marlin R. Scarborough, USA, 114X, Bill Schlitzkus 109X. Schlitzkus relaxed too soon and dropped his last shot at 50-meters. Raymond Sargent lost his 1600 with one shot, an 8, also at 50-meters. (After that he was looking for a pair of suspenders.)

Caygle was still ahead by 3 points in the first 3200-aggregate—3193-241X to Stidworthy's 3190-253X. Guerin was third, 3190-225X, and Krilling fourth, 3189-237X, a point and 7Xs ahead of his teammate, Wigger. In the other classes, the winners of the Metallic Agg. were still leading.

The Big Brother 2-man team match

over the Dewar Course, any sights, was repeated this year to better acquaint the shooters from widely scattered sections of the country and to give newer shooters the opportunity of observing the manner in which the winners approach problems in the doping department. The high man in Thursday's Metallic Agg. was automatically squadded with the shooter who had the lowest score, the second high with the second low, etc. The reasoning which prompted this arrangement was excellent. Due to an unforeseen circumstance, however, two of the top shooters on the line were squadded together—Nat'l Senior Champion Henry Benson and Lones Wigger. We would expect them to "clean house," so I'm not going to congratulate them too enthusiastically for turning in the only possible—Wigger with 400-35X and Benson with 400-34X. 69Xs is about par for a team like that. They should have fired 2 more Xs and equalled the Nat'l Record! . . . They weren't the only 12 o'clock Masters who were automatically squadded together, however. (Second place went to the team of Expert Sam Wells and SS Kurt Degerlund with 798-58X. Auer with 400-36X and SS Lyle Hassen with 398-19X came in third—798-55X. Glancing down the bulletin board at such scores as 400-39X, 400-34X, etc., from the Masters, it is a foregone conclusion that there was a lot of Kentuckyling done. With such high-powered coaching, this would seem to indicate that the greatest weakness among the lower classes lies in holding, squeezing, or coordination—or else, there was a lack of communication in the coaching terminology.

You are awaiting an explanation, undoubtedly, for the above implication. It is quite simple! In the very first stage of the first match on Thursday when all of the targets for the day were stacked on various tables, Hank Benson, Clarence Cope, and Roy Nockleby inadvertently picked up an Int'l target reduced for 50-yards instead of a 50-yd. target. (These targets are practically identical in appearance except for the word International.) Hank fired 18Xs on the smaller target, which turned out to be just a waste of effort and good ammo, as they were all **disqualified**. The Wildcats are not proud of these disqualifications and they are sincerely regretted. (I feel that I am speaking for the majority, not the isolated cases which favored this outrageous penalty.) As the matches progressed, there were subsequent additional disqualifications for firing on the wrong type target. . . . I have previously touched on this subject, but at this time **I am going on record for the good of the shooting game as vehemently opposing all disqualifications EXCEPT where there is an intent to cheat!!!** For further elucidation on this matter, read on—I'm not through with it yet.

We'll let you in on Stidworthy's secret for refreshing frayed nerves—he regularly took a brisk dip in the pool before dinner, while supervising his young daughter's swimming lessons.

Saturday morning an air of distress pervaded the range as the news spread that George Cooper, of Manhattan, Mont., had had two rifles and his scopes stolen from his car the night before. That's one thing about this shooting game—when misfortune befalls one shooter, all of them are aroused. George was offered the use of any number of outfits . . . We only hope that the thief soon realizes that every rifle has its own distinctive personality and is so easily recognizable that it can't be sold. Perhaps, then, the police will locate the missing items in a pawn shop.

Those who were not unduly harrassed by the conditions in Saturday's metallic sight matches might describe them as tricky, but not too bad. Those who synchronized their cadence and got in step with conditions, fared admirably. The others took a tumble. Winds whipped and mirage was heaviest that day and switching. Light changes plagued some shooters. Of course some maintain that changing light has no effect on iron sight shooting, but that is all a matter of eyes. Stidworthy and Grater, incidentally, put their light meters to good use. . . . Bill Atkinson livened things up by trying to borrow a spare X-tube. His had parallax!!!

Henry Benson, given another crack at the Dewar metallic, came through with a winning 400-33X. Grater was runner-up with 400-27X, Creedmooring Scarborough. This match also turned the tide of the tournament as Stidworthy was clean and Caygle dropped 3. This pushed George ahead in the Grand by 9Xs . . . Raymond Sargent won the 100-yd. with 398-31X, followed by Auer's 398-27X and Benson's 398-26X. Some hopes were badly shattered in this one as Caygle lost 6 and Krilling, a fistful. . . . Caygle, however, bounced back at 50-meters, his specialty (he won both meter metallics), with a 400-28X, and Krilling placed second with 399-30X, Boydston third—399-27X. . . . Wigger's 400-35X led a dozen possibles at 50-yds., followed by Boydston's 33X and S/Sgt. Allan H. Hanon, USAF, with 32X, Creedmooring Guerin and Bill Atkinson.

In totaling it up, we find Stidworthy on top—1596-101X—(His light meter must have helped); Benson—1594-115X; Auer—1594-99X; Guerin—1593-106X; and Grater—1593-102X. . . . Tom Burns, Twin Falls, Ida., was High Expert with 1583-83X. Degerlund took the SS Class with 1589-101X, and if that boy isn't re-classified soon, there is going to be a barrage of protests. George Rodenberg, Jr. continued to lead the Marksmen—1580-83X, and Jack Farrell, Vandenberg AFB, headed the Un-classified with 1581-75X.

Winds were treacherous for the 2-man team match at 100-yds. any sights, blowing in gales from 6 o'clock then intermittently switching direction. The Army MTU from Ft. Benning planned its method of attack with both team members firing at the same time, the coach shooting on his sighter to verify the dope. Air Force Int'l shooters followed the same procedure. It was interesting to observe, but it must have required a great deal of stamina. . . . 1962 Int'l Dewar Team members Krilling and Wigger, who will also represent the U. S. at the Pan-Am Games, worked hard at winning this challenging one. Krilling, with the lower score, proved to be the better coach in this instance. He lost a point which he shouldn't have dropped on the first stage, due to getting coaching signals crossed. The two of them were "having a ball," thoroughly enjoying (my) audience reaction. Wigger barely missed scoring 20Xs on the first stage, when one drifted a hair too high on the bottom bull. He let Krilling go out for 2 points on the second stage but, not being the vengeful type, Bill coached Lones into a possible and 18 on that stage, for a terrific 400-37X (10X, 9X, 8X, 10X). An interesting note—: Wigger's rifle wasn't grouping on the sighter in the last stage, so he got off the line, cleaned the dirt out of the barrel, and got back in the groove. In that wind, those two were just shading the X-ring! Their 797-60X out-ranked the 797-46X fired by Inez and Raymond Sargent, who were using the conventional system of coaching. Both scores deserve special recognition.

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ROY F. DUNLAP, 2319 Ft. Lowell Road, Tucson, Arizona



Left to right standing are Western Wildcats Champion George J. Stidworthy, Jr.; High Lady, Inez Sargent; Runner-Up in Grand Aggregate, T/Sgt. Edward E. Caygle, Jr., USAF; 3rd in Grand Aggregate, Thomas H. Guerin. Kneeling are winners of 2-man team match who tied for 4th place in Grand Aggregate, Lt. Lones W. Wigger, USA (left) and M/Sgt. William E. Krilling, USA. (Note: Rifles are not those fired by these competitors; they were merely assembled for the photo. White circles on rifles indicated that triggers had been weighed.)

On the final day Stidworthy, one of the leading proponents of a 6400-point Nat'l Championship Agg., announced: "Betty, you may quote me. I was wrong. I'm ready to settle for a 4800 Agg." Now, you know and I know that George was merely joking. Being in the lead by 2 points after firing a 4800-point Agg., it would have rescued him from the orgies of a whole day's pressure to have quit then.

Someone should have turned in 40Xs in the Dewar any; it was that kind of conditions. Wigger took it, however, with 400-38X, followed by Al Sharpnack, Pueblo, Colo., Hollister, and Bill Hankins, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with 400-35X. It was at

that point that Vic Auer definitely realized that his new rifle wasn't shooting. The way he holds, to drop 2 points at 50-yds. and another at 100 was conclusive proof. He switched to his old one, which has recently been re-chambered, and went clean for the rest of the day. . . . Conditions were anything but perfect after that. Los Angeles Rifle & Revolver Club Pres. "Doggie" Kline, who was able to be present only the last two days, topped the 100-yd. with 400-29X. Auer placed second—400-25X, with Wigger in third spot—399-31X. . . . At 50-meters, Auer Creedmoored Wigger—400-30X, and Hollister dropped a point with (Continued on Page Thirteen)

National Bench Rest Shooters Association, Inc.

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NBRSA MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual annual dues \$5.00 (includes magazine subscription for membership term). Associate member (wife or husband, son or daughter under 18 years of age, of member in good standing—no magazine) \$2.50. Life membership, \$75.00. Annual club affiliation fee \$10.00.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

About this time of the year everyone is just eager to get on the firing line and meet all the shooters to see what new gadget they have come up with over the winter months. In this organization, there never seems to be an ending. But that is the idea that our organization is based on.

Mr. John Reece, of Pa., was through St. Louis the other day, visiting his relatives. While he was here, he gave me a phone call and I spent a very enjoyable evening with him. It does one good to talk to someone from another part of the country and find out what the fellow shooters in his area are doing. During our evening, we shot some very small groups (from the living room chair) and shot several bears and varmints. He visited the Benchrest Club of St. Louis range where the Varmint Nationals are going to be held this year, and predicted a large turnout from the East. We have held reservations for forty rooms at the Holiday Motel near the Lambert Air Field, which is about as close as one can get to the range. Anyone wishing to seek information can contact Mr. L. R. Jackson, 1812 N. Hanley, St. Louis 14, Missouri (Parkview 5-2740).

The revised rules for the new rule book have been received by me from the appointed rules-committee and forwarded to the Regional Directors for their approvals.

Several have been returned to me at this date, with 100% approvals. As soon as all are received, I shall forward them back to the Rules Committee and the new rule book will go off to press as soon as possible. I know everyone is eager to receive one. Please, bear with us as this is a lot of hard and time consuming work.

Bob Hart has extended his Council Cup Rifle Range five more benches to make it a 20 bench range. Since passing the President's job in my lap, he says he has finally got a chance to breathe and has been spending most of his time improving his range for the coming National Bench Rest Matches this year.

Several new clubs have been formed this winter. Let's all give them a helping hand. A new club in any area needs lots of information that we older clubs have spent so many hours on improving.

I am happy to report on my last month's write up on anti-gun laws. It seems like everyone took great interest in this and got some action. The bill was amended to read as follows: Missouri House Bill N. 178, by Representative Richard E. McFadin, reported in the NRA Bulletin of February 26, 1963, was amended by the House Committee on Civil and Criminal Procedure to remove from the scope of the proposal (1) unlawful possession and (2) offenses arising out of use of firearms in connection with hunting or sporting activities. As amended, the bill now reads: No property rights exist in any firearm unlawfully carried or used, unless the offense arises out of the use of firearms in connection with hunting or sporting activities (underscoring ours) and all such firearms are declared to be contraband and forfeited to the state.

It looks as if in the State of Missouri, the guns will not go in the corner as several people thought they should. I hope each state will take such active action when the need arises.

'Til Later,

Al Walter
President, NBRSA

ROD JANSON STILL IN COMA

Dr. Rod Janson of Seattle, Washington, who was injured in an automobile accident on February 4th, was still in a coma on April 4th. One brain operation has been performed but it was unsuccessful in relieving the condition.

Rod Janson was one of the founders of the National Bench Rest Shooters Ass'n and until recently the Director of the Northwest Region NBRSA. He served one term as NBRSA President. Even before the NBRSA was organized, he was one of the promoters of the Puget Sound Snipers Congress which sponsored the early bench rest matches in Seattle. He is one of the pioneers of present day bench rest shooting.

PHT

ABILENE TEXAS BENCH MATCH

The West Texas Sportsman Club of Abilene, Texas, held its second bench rest match of the season on March 3rd. It was a wicked day, with the shooters facing a 45 m. p. h. wind that never let up and with gusts up to 60 m. p. h.

Fourteen fired the heavy varmint rifles and the four top aggregates were by Jean Bonner .769, Pokey Bonner .778, C. A. Morris .834 and Grady Canter .872.

Eighteen shot the light varmint rifles and top aggregates were by Brian Summers .736, Grady Canter .824, Jean Bonner .826 and Bob McLaren .863.

Eleven fired sporter class rifles and top aggregates were by Brian Summers .808, Bob McLaren .850, Fred Bussel .974 and Melvin Boase 1.053.

PHT

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON BENCH SHOOT

On March 23 and 24 the Seattle Precision Shooters, Inc. held their first non-registered benchrest match on their new range with 16 shooters participating. All shooting was at 200 yards range. Four classes of rifles were fired; Unlimited, 25 lb. rifle, heavy varmint and light varmint.

Roy Norman won the unlimited class aggregate with .460, the 25 lb. rifle agg. with .242 and the light varmint class agg. with .791. Allen Bench won the heavy varmint class agg. with .760 and was 3rd in unlimited class with .521. Club secretary Manley Oakley was 2nd in unlimited class with .487.

Ed Frombach was 2nd in the 25 lb. class with .320, 2nd in heavy varmint class with .761 and 3rd in light varmint class with 1.023. Al Thomas was 3rd with 25 lb. rifle .487 and Ed Hilton was 3rd with heavy varmint .765. Jack Swick was 2nd in light varmint class with 1.021 and C. Erb, a new bench shooter, was 4th with 1.034.

Eight shot the unlimited rifle, six the 25 lb. rifle, twelve the heavy and nine the light varmint rifles.

1963 BENCH REST MATCHES

EASTERN REGION

Heavy Bench Rifle Classes

Augusta, Ohio: May 4-5, June 28 (night), July 27 (night), Aug. 17-18, Sept. 14-15 (Eastern Region Championship); Reed's Run Rifle Range, Box 66, Augusta, Ohio.

Johnstown, New York: June 1-2, (4 classes—2 heavy rifle, heavy varmint and sporter); Pine Tree Rifle Club, Inc., c/o Edward J. Sweeney, 501 North Market St., Johnstown, New York.

Plainfield, New Hampshire: June 9, Sept. 26 (State Championship); Plainfield Rifle Club, Inc., c/o Leslie R. Stone, Sec'y, Plainfield, New Hampshire.

Cape Cod, Mass.: June 15; Stepping Stones Rifle Range, c/o Crawford H. Hollidge, Cotuit Road, Marstons Mills, Mass.

Southboro, Mass.: June 16, July 27-28 (State Championship), Oct. 12-13; Southboro Rod & Gun Club, Inc., c/o J. W. Baldwin, P. O. Box 402, Westboro, Mass.

Easton, Ohio: June 15-16 (State Championship—heavy bench and heavy varmint classes), July 20-21 (200 yd. and 300 meter); Chippewa Rifle Club, Inc., c/o Nelson Berger, Sec'y, R. D. 1, Box 192, Marshallville, Ohio. Wapwallopen, Penn.: June 22-23 (State Championship), Aug. 29, 30, 31 and Sept. 1 (NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS); Council Cup Rifle Range, c/o Robert W. Hart, 332 Montgomery St., Nescopeck, Pa.

Lewistown, Penna.: July 6-7; East End Blue Rock & Sportsmen's Club, c/o P. J. Aurand, Milroy, Pa.

Varmint and Sporter Classes

Fassett, Pa.: May 12, July 13-14 (Eastern Region Championship), Sept. 8, Sept. 28-29 (State Championship); South Creek Rod & Gun Club, c/o Gerald Arnold, Sec'y, R. D. #2, Gillett, Pa.

Dryden, New York: May 25-26, June 28-29 (State Championship); Dryden Fish & Game Club, c/o Ed Shilen, Dryden, N. Y.

Wapwallopen, Penn.: Aug. 3-4; Council Cup Rifle Range, c/o Robert W. Hart, 332 Montgomery St., Nescopeck, Pa.

GULF COAST REGION

San Angelo, Texas: May 25 and 26; Unrestricted Rifle State Championship plus Heavy Varmint class, July 27 and 28; Varmint and Sporter classes State Championship. Texas Bench Rest Shooters Ass'n, E. L. Phillips, Jr., President, 3100 Windsor, Odessa, Texas.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Yreka, California: June 1 and 2, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 (West Coast Championship); Yreka Rifle Club, c/o Ray E. Jones, 508 Knapp St., Yreka, California.

Richmond, California: July 27 and 28 (California State Championship); Richmond Rod & Gun Club, Inc., c/o Lloyd Hyde, Sec'y, 3155 Goodrich Ave., Richmond, Calif.

Fresno, California: Oct. 12 and 13 (Southwest Region Championship); Fresno Rifle & Pistol Club, c/o Henry C. Wright, Sec'y, 4663 East Olive, Fresno, Calif.

Modesto, California: November 3 (non-registered); Modesto Rifle Club, c/o Duane D. Jenner, 1944 Ralston Court, Modesto, Calif.

MISS. VALLEY REGION

St. Louis, Missouri:

May 11, night, Light Varmint class
May 26, day, Heavy Varmint & Sporter
June 16, day, Unrestricted class
June 30, day, Heavy & light Varmint
July 21, day, Sporter & light Varmint
Aug. 9-10-11, NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VARMINT & SPORTER

Sept. 8, day, Unrestricted class

Sept. 23, night, Heavy Varmint

Oct. 12, night, Sporter class

Bench Rest Rifle Club of St. Louis, c/o Arthur M. Freund, Sec'y, 1038 Hornsby, St. Louis 15, Missouri.

MID-CONTINENT REGION

Hot Springs, Arkansas: July 28 (night, heavy varmint & sporter), Aug. 24 (night, heavy varmint & sporter); Hot Springs Gun Club, c/o Robert A. Holiman, Sec'y, 220 Hollywood Lane, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Wichita, Kansas: July 6 & 7 (Kansas State Championship, day and night, all classes), Oct. 5 (night, Heavy Var. & Unrestricted); Wichita Bench Rest Rifle Club, c/o C. R. Kunkle, Sec'y, 1914 Lydia, Wichita, Kansas.

Tulsa, Oklahoma: May 19*, June 22, July 20, Sept. 15*, Oct. 13* (all matches for all classes, June & July night, * denotes non-registered); Tulsa Bench Rest Rifle Club, c/o R. G. Berry, Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Kansas City, Kansas: May 25 (day & night, Heavy Varmint), June 8, (day & night, unrestricted), Sept. 21 (day and night, Heavy Varmint), Oct. 19 (day, unrestricted); Mill Creek Rifle Club, Inc., c/o L. F. Carden, 5022 Waverly, Kansas City 4, Kansas.

NORTHWEST REGION

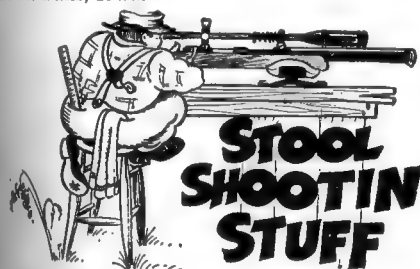
Seattle, Washington: June 15 and 16—Aug. 17 and 18, registered matches, all classes. Non-registered matches for various classes on Apr. 28; May 18-19, June 30, July 21. All matches on the new range of the Seattle Precision Shooters, Inc. Contact Manley M. Oakley, Sec'y, 7230 So. 116th, Seattle 78, Wash.

Lewiston, Idaho: July 5 and 6, conducted by Lewiston Pistol Club, Warren Cloninger, Sec'y, 3415 11th St., Lewiston, Idaho.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Custer, South Dakota: June 15 (unrestricted rifles), June 16 (varmint and sporter), Aug. 17 (unrestricted rifles), Aug. 18 (sporter championship), July 28 (non-registered 22 rim-fire bench rest). Walt Stewart, Box 749, Custer, South Dakota.

Iowa Falls, Iowa: May 18 (unrestricted—nite), May 19 (sporter & varmint—morning), June 8 (sporter & varmint—morning), July 13 (sporter & varmint—nite), July 14 (unrestricted—morning), Sept. 15 (sporter & varmint—morning). Iowa Falls Gun Club, Lee R. Boddy, Sec'y, Iowa Falls, Iowa.



Dear Phil:

Who would have thought a month ago that I would be writing this column as Merrie and I are riding through the Alps on The Italian Express from Vienna to Venice. This is the way the whole trip has been. We decide things one day and the next we are on our way. We first intended to take an airplane for Germany but when we arrived at the Military Air Transport Service at Maguire Air Force Base and found that we could get a plane to Paris sooner, we hitchhiked a ride on a plane that went by way of Prestwick, Scotland. There were 62 passengers aboard covering quite a cross section of service folk, and among them, quite a few children. Some were returning from leave back to their foreign duty stations and many of them on their way to a foreign base.

We were above the overcast most of the time and did not even see a speck of the Atlantic Ocean until we neared Prestwick. The ride, however, was as smooth as sitting at home in your own living room. The airplane was comfortably warm and the two meals we were served were excellent. Our pilots and crew-men were Navy personnel and I had the pleasure of spending quite a bit of time up in the front cockpit. I found a few new instruments with which I was not too familiar but on the whole, the airplane flew much like those I flew in the later years of World War II. The bigger the airplane gets, the less I find the flying thrill of my early years.

I had two magic keys with me that throughout my trip have been tremendously advantageous. From the time Merrie and I parked our little Comet at the Air Force Base and registered at the terminal for our flight, my 50 years of Air Force effort has paid dividends. My serial number dates back to the Aviation Branch of the Signal Corps in 1917 which some of the youngsters recognized as predating even their father's time and along with my Command Pilot rating and Colonel's rank, automatically brought me many unexpected courtesies. Merrie and I were assigned to distinguished guest rooms in the Visiting Officers Quarters at Maguire and at each stop of the airplane we were called upon to disembark first and were met by a Protocol Officer who not only gave us the red carpet treatment but put a car and chauffeur at our disposal. Of course, we were well acquainted with Harmon Air Force Base at Newfoundland after our hunting trips there but at Scotland we could not have seen nearly so much had it not been for the car which was provided for us.

When we arrived in Paris, the Protocol Officer indicated that I automatically cleared customs but Merrie had to register. A bus was provided to take us into the city and at that point we said goodbye to our fellow passengers. We really got a pretty good break in Paris. The weather was good and we stumbled along with our French well enough to get by. We saw many of the famous places and some pretty things in the stores but did not buy much. Before leaving, Merrie and I decided if we were going to make the trip we would try to know the foreign countries by living with the people, if possible, so we avoided the big cities and more expensive cosmopolitan hotels. We took the night train from Paris and arrived in Vienna at 5 P. M. the next day. The train compartment accommodated six persons, normally three on a side with a window at one end and a sliding glass door to close off the compartment facing on the aisle. The sides were made up into three berths, each referred to as couches. One pillow and blanket was supplied for each and I assume that the majority of people sleep with their clothes on. The train was fast and remarkably smooth and the noise level much lower than on our trains. We got off at a very modern station and were met by our refugee Hungarian friends who were delighted to see us. They are now American citizens and happy to be after their very bad days in the Hungarian uprising and subsequent border crossing. After spending a few hours in Vienna which impressed us very pleasantly, because of the way the Austrian economy is coming back, particularly the amount of building going on and the street car system which is modern and inexpensive, we were driven out to Baden where we made our headquarters. We couldn't help but notice the great number of automobiles and taxis and while most are small, they are

also mostly new and are kept bright and shiny. They scoot around those narrow streets at about 40 miles per hour even in the middle of the city when traffic permits, however, jay walking is a serious offense and most people cross only on the green walking light.

Baden is about 18 miles outside of Vienna. It was a delightful little village nearly 1500 years old. It had been badly abused by the Russians during the occupation as they had used it for their headquarters. There are many beautiful homes, perhaps equal to a \$100,000 house in this country, despoiled by the Russian troops who housed cattle, goats and poultry on the ground floor and lived on the upper floors, burning up doors, windows and furniture as fuel for their fires. In the summer time it is a very active resort as it is not far from Vienna or from the popular skiing area of Semmering, which we visited on our first weekend. There were thousands of skiers of all ages and abilities and for every ten skiers there must have been just the right slope.

I understand this is one of the very good hunting areas and I would like to have given it a try. We often kid our benchrest shooting friends from the Catskills and Adirondacks about the advantages that would be derived from having one leg shorter than the other. Those Tyrolean Alps are really a place for hills. They go up to sharp little peaks much like an inverted ice cream cone as far as you can see. Sometimes we could see the road five times below us and to put a railroad or highway through that area was a pretty capable engineering feat. There are many old castles in the various stage of repair, and others that are beyond that stage and abandoned, perched on the top of strategic hills which were once the refuge of the people when it was necessary to defend themselves from oncoming invaders.

I had hardly arrived in Baden when I looked up a gunsmith and what an outstanding old gentleman he was. Apparently for some 30 years he had been foreman for an important gun making concern but now he is semi-retired to a little shop of his own where he makes up and sells guns and equipment. He could speak practically no English but with the little German I know and sign language and a smile or two we got on well. Actually we talked for many hours over a period of several days and I got a picture of the hunting in that area quite clearly. He very kindly contacted the head of one of the big private hunting preserves to arrange for Merrie and me to participate in a wild boar hunt but enough time was not available for us to enjoy this event. This old gentleman and many others I talked to were very interested to hear about benchrest shooting, however the economy of the country is not now at such a stage that many could afford it but a wonderful opportunity exists for crowd shooters. There are some in almost every field and in some, it looked like there were 100. These fields are largely cultivated, and in the area around Vienna they would make some of our Maine potato fields look like garden plots, so far as size is concerned. The Vienna fields were laid out in squares and separated by lanes or mounded walls and sometimes a fence.

I bought a 7 X 64 rifle from the old fellow to remember him by. As a matter of fact, the magic key of benchrest shooting formed the basis of conversation with a half a dozen gunsmiths as I traveled from place to place and on one of my visits to a resort area and very good hunting country, I met

(Continued on Page Twelve)

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STOOL SHOOTIN STUFF

(Continued from Page Eleven)

two young gunsmiths with whom I could converse fairly well because they had studied English in school. They showed me their shop and told me about some of their stockmaking, and from them I learned about a jobber who is probably the outstanding man in Austria in that line.

It was some distance out of the city but my taxi driver finally found it. I thought at first I had wasted my time because his shop was almost entirely enclosed by the building structure and apparently entrance was usually gained only by appointment. Finally the bell was answered by a young girl who spoke a few words of English and who turned us over to another young lady who at least could converse with us, and we tried to indicate the things we were interested in. At that time Mr. Franz Sarnitz arrived and we found him to be a very able business man who could both understand and speak English well, and his enthusiasm for guns was only matched by some of the folks you and I know. When we did get to see some of his gun racks in the shop, one of the first things that struck my eye was a 722/222. I did not see any Winchesters but he did have a display card on which there were tiny models of Winchester guns made from cardboard.

His inventory is probably as large as all but a few of the big jobbers in America. Customers were coming in and out as we talked so he kindly invited us to return the next day for coffee. On this occasion Merrie and I visited at his home and met Mrs. Sarnitz who was a very attractive hostess and could talk some English. While she and Merrie conversed, he and I started where we had left off about guns. On my first visit I had left a copy of Precision Shooting, since he had indicated a knowledge and interest in benchrest shooting

which he had picked up from pictures and such information as had been published in Austria. Our conversation went on for several hours, and if I am not mistaken, there will be some sort of a benchrest program attempted among his friends and acquaintances. He was very interested in the extreme accuracy we have achieved and in our techniques.

I wish I could have spent more time in Austria and had it been possible I would have gone down to the Ferlach area or possibly up to Marholdt because at those two areas there is still a lot of gun making going on, and both of them produce many fine pieces. Merrie and I did go to Steyre. That particular weekend was very enjoyable and the old town which probably existed 1,000 years before Columbus sailed for America still has some of those old walls and moats. The factories on the side of the hill make everything from guns to automobiles and the damage that was done by bombing raids has to a large extent been repaired. Unfortunately the gun shops were closed and the old Museum which is quite famous for its arms collection was also not open.

Cordially yours,

Ernest Stahlbacher

PS: Although I dictated this letter to Merrie on the train between frequent stops to admire the Tyrolean Alps as we drove through, it wasn't possible to type it until we could borrow a typewriter in Rome. In the meantime, we had spent two days and nights in Venice, but that was a city in which it would be hard to sell a benchrest shooting program. It is really hard to visualize such a city and to recognize that its buildings that date back to the early centuries as well as the more modern ones (if they could be called modern) are built on pilings because the whole city is built out into the sea and almost at sea level everywhere. There are no streets as we know them, only hundreds of alleys and nearly as many narrow canals with a few very broad plazas built opposite or near some of the important structures. I never was in a place where I needed a compass so badly. There is absolutely no method of transportation except by gondola or slick looking brightly varnished motor boats which took the place of taxis or private cars for use in the canals. The less expensive method to get about was on the ferry boats which operate from island to island or through the Grand Canal much as street cars do in a normal city. It is a tourist city, famous for glass, hand needle work and jewelry and there wasn't a gun or piece of sporting equipment to be seen in any shop window. I did see in Venice, however, one of the

most interesting and amazing collections of ancient and medieval arms that I have ever seen. There were three big rooms of them and in a very good stage of preservation. Old Sam Colt may have thought that he was the first one to develop a rotating breech system but some which I saw must have predated Columbus by a good many years. Everywhere there were signs warning visitors not to touch but how I would have enjoyed examining some of those breech and firing mechanisms more closely. I have seen suits of armor in many countries but never before did I see such a large collection of hatchets, swords and lances that were intended to penetrate the owner. The suits of armor indicated that the men were not particularly large but it sure took some rugged guys to wield some of those double bladed two handled swords.

Ernest

More About Barrel Straightness

(Continued from Page Seven)

Thus a straightened barrel always wants to move back to some extent where it was before it was straightened and this movement is hastened as the barrel heats up in firing.

If all shots are cold, as from a hunting rifle, minor straightening would not hurt much, maybe. BUT that very same barrel would be a better barrel, and much more capable of holding its zero, if it had been left UNSTRAIGHTENED. There is no such thing as a "carefully straightened" barrel, as you may read from time to time. It is not the care in straightening that is important. It is the straightening itself. If a barrel has enough curvature to warrant straightening, then scrap it.

The second reason for the average gunsmith not trying to straighten rifle barrels is because this is both hard to learn and difficult to do, even with the regular armory straightening press. He would be much better off if he were to try to understand HOW to check for rifle barrel crookedness, and what he could or should do about it, OTHER than straightening it. If the gunsmith were to do this he could determine the plane of curvature of a barrel, and then fit it to the action so that the plane of the bend is up or down, preferably pointing down, so that when the barrel is in the action, and stocked, a very small amount of forend pressure will push the barrel upwards and almost all or all of the curvature can be cancelled out just by stock pressure. I personally would rather have a barrel of this kind, pushed and held straight by the stock, than a straight barrel that is free floated and droops, or is bedded in the stock and pushed upwards an undue amount, as would occur with almost any amount of upwards stock pressure.

Lastly I would suggest that in the final analysis the quality of a rifle barrel is how it prints the bullets on the target, and if it does that well with a high order of repetitiveness, it would not bother me if it were bent high or low, right or left. Of course we will assume that any barrel be given a fair chance to prove itself by being tried with good loads, etc., etc. In this connection I am reminded of what Mr. L. E. Wilson wrote to me about 10 years ago when I asked him something about how he wanted a barrel rifled, or what his ideas were on the subject, and he said, "I don't care if it is rifled left hand half the way and right hand the other half, if it shoots."

One thing more before I quit and that is this: I have made and sold since 1948 close to 75,000 rifle barrels, maybe more. I cannot recall at this moment that we ever were asked to replace a barrel because it

was crooked. (We have replaced one or two in that time that were bent in the mail.)

Finally then, since we can be quite sure that there are many crooked rifle barrels in use, and since most of these are giving satisfactory performance for their owners, then we of necessity must conclude that a small amount of crookedness is not harmful, and that there are other factors having greater potential to affect accuracy.

RANDOM SHOTS

(Continued from Page Nine)

36Xs. Stidworthy let three get away and Caygle, two . . . It was "Doggie" Kline again at 50-yds. with a possible and 37X (clean scores: 14), over Caygle's 36X, Whittington and Grater's 34X . . . Going into that match, Guerin was second in the Grand Agg. but, losing a point, he changed places with Caygle. And, it was tricky; some good shooters got caught for more than one point.

A "well done" to Wigger and Forrest Kline, who got by the last day with only one point down! Wigger was heavy on the Xs with 128 to "Doggie's" 118. Krilling came in third—1597-123X, then Guerin, 1597-112X, and Auer, 1597-111X. . . . Leon Simmons, McLakoff, Tex., was Hi Expert with 1589-95X; David Cesena, Phoenix, High SS—1590-94X; Bo Waddel, Upland, Calif., Hi Mks—1568-65X, and Bobby Smith again Hi Uncl—1573-82X.

A few names were conspicuous by their absence from the bulletin board the last day, particularly in the last match. Being so far down, they apparently decided to take advantage of the desert scenery or get an early start for home.

The Saturday-Sunday Agg. went to Stidworthy—3191-219X, followed by Auer—3191-210X, Guerin—3190-218X, and Grater—3189-226X. Class Winners: EX—Gary Beardmore, Williams AFB—3160-163X; SS—Cesena—3166-174X; MK—George Rodenberg, Sr.—3141-145X; Uncl.—Smith—3151-167X. . . . Mac Bock from Long Beach, Calif., a student at Verde Valley School, Sedona, Ariz., won the Hi Junior award for the tournament which was based on the high score in this agg. Competition was keen as his 3152-164X gave him a single X margin over Judy Saffell.

Wildcat Champ Stidworthy was also victorious in the Metallic Sight Championship, scoring 3187-212X. Runner-up was Caygle with 3185-221X, out-Xing Guerin by 14Xs. Whittington finished fourth—3181-202X. . . . Class Winners: EX—Judy Saffell—3148-148X; SS—Degerlund—3159-184X; MK—Rodenberg, Jr.—3142-139X; Uncl.—Smith—3110-131X.

With a pair of 1599s, Wigger had high score in the Any Sight Championship, an excellent 3198-259X, over Krilling's 3196-256X. There were three 3195s—Caygle leading with 253X, Auer—143X and Guerin—236X. . . . Class winners: EX—Lt. Col. J. M. Decker, Glendale, Ariz.—3173-191X; SS—Cesena—3173-189X; MK—Elisabeth Hitchcock, Window Rock, Ariz.—3150-168X; Uncl.—Smith—3147-148X.

Here's a nice simple little agg. and for a worthy cause, the Prone Team Fund, an agg. of the last two 100-yd. matches. It went this way: Auer, 798-52; Benson, 797-41; Stidworthy, 796-52X; Scarborough, 796-49X. . . . Bill Halsted, S. San Gabriel, Calif., took Expert honors—792-33; SS—Cesena—791-41; MK—Rodenberg, Sr.—

786-34X; Uncl.—Smith 784-39X.

Reaching the finish line, the top guns have already been presented, which brings us to the tie for fourth place in the Grand Aggregate. It is not unusual when two shooters, accustomed to firing together, end up "neck and neck." Thus, Wigger and Krilling found themselves with identical 6374-464X aggregates. Going back to the 100-yd. matches on the Creedmoor, Wigger won the nod, as Krilling took a spill on the second 100-yd. metallic. Rounding out the top twelve, we have Auer in 6th place with 6374-448X, Grater—6372-454X, Whittington—6372-434X, Hollister—6368-479X, Archie Bell—6361-416X, Gerald Marotta, Los Angeles—6361-410X, and Raymond Sargent—6360-401X.

Take a bow, Inez Sargent, for repeating as "Queen of the Wildcats." Like Stidworthy, Inez took her lead in the feminine category on the third day (when I ran out of steam) and finished ahead by a sizeable margin. (We made an agreement to forget about our scores.)

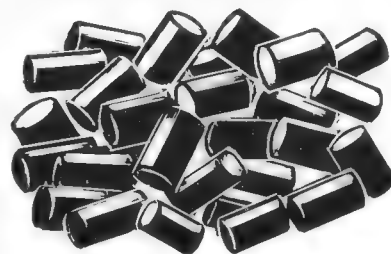
Judy Saffell has developed into a fine little competitor, and is consistently gaining momentum. She was third among the five ladies who shot through the four days, and won a decisive Expert Class victory—6315-345X over Gary Beardmore's 6302-333X. . . . Degerlund outpointed Cesena—6331-399X to 6304-327X in the SS Class. . . . George Rodenberg, Jr. won over his father—6288-302X to 6277-302X, with identical X-count, in the MK Class. . . . Bobby Smith was the star of the Unclassified division—6257-279X.

The new Western Wildcats Champion was firing the same hot Douglas-37 with which he established the Nat'l Record for his 3199-277X Any Sight Agg. score in Houston last Sept. (Note: George was NOT shooting the "over and under" rifle which someone dreamed up and reported in print that he used for firing the Record. There've been quite a few chuckles over that "slip.") Karl Kenyon did the rechambering job on this barrel and obviously endowed it with the magical quality which is becoming his trademark. . . . George was using Mark III, Lot 63A, a lot which no one else at Perry liked. He stepped by his Unertl 12X scope to about 16X with a high-power eyepiece, because at times the mirage wasn't heavy enough to read with the 12X. His metallic sights are Redfield Int'l. Next month we'll give you a detailed report on the techniques which he employs.

Runner-up Ed Caygle attributes countless victories to the extraordinary accuracy of his Atkinson-Marquart (stainless) BSA Mark II combination, which is his own personal rifle and not supplied by the USAF. For the benefit of new readers, it is custom bedded in wood, using a Freeland 2-point bedder with spring loaded barrel band. Metallic sights are Redfield Int'l Mark VIII rear, and Freeland 6½" front with .120" aperture. He uses a Lyman 30X scope and Mark III ammo, lot 32A.

Tom Guerin, of Los Alamitos, Calif., proved that he is no "flash in the pan," but a steady, consistent shooter. He didn't win an individual match, but was always well up there, placing second in one match, fourth in two matches, second in one agg., third in four aggregates including the Grand, and fourth in another agg. To refresh your memory about this rising shooter, he returned from England two years ago after placing 8th in the Grand Agg. at Bisley.

(Continued on Page Fourteen)

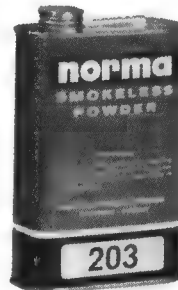


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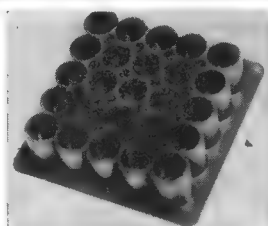
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Random Shots

(Continued from Page Thirteen)

Having resided in Britain for several years, it is not surprising to find him shooting a BSA Mark III Int'l with Parker Hale rear and iris disc. He uses a Bell front sight, Lyman 20X scope, and Remington ammo. Let me repeat, too, that he is one of those rare shooters who is blessed with 20-20 vision.

Army shooters Wigger and Krilling used similar equipment except that Wigger's 40-X has a Hart barrel and Krilling's, a 40-X barrel. Their sights are Redfield Int'l rear and Olympic front, Unertl 20X scopes. Krilling shot Remington ammo exclusively, while Wigger alternated between that and Mark III.

Credit for this tournament goes to Oscar Morris, outgoing Sec.-Treas. of the Wildcats, who did the advance planning and worked in the Stat Office in the role of Executive Officer. Vi Kline, sec. of the Los Angeles Rifle & Revolver Club, who served as Chief Statistical Officer, deserves

a special vote of thanks, along with her efficient crew, for a superb job. The new NRA Vice President, Harlon Carter, was greatly appreciated in the scoring dept., as a recent appendectomy prevented him from competing.

Given a choice of awards, 42 chose merchandise certificates, 32 trophies, and 26 specified cash. Some, whose skill matched their "eye for business," collected over \$150.

You've been kept in suspense long enough, so here is the report for which so many of you have been waiting—the outcome of the enforcement of Rule 9.14. This, the first major outdoor prone tournament of 1963 was the test case for this most controversial of all rules. We cannot praise too highly the deliberation, diplomacy, and understanding exercised by NRA Official Referee Bob Modisette, who requested this assignment, knowing full well that he would be sitting upon a powder keg and that the slightest friction could ignite the fuse. Bob takes his chairmanship of the NRA Smallbore Rifle Committee very seriously,

and was the logical person to supervise such an explosive situation. Prior to the tournament, he telephoned several Western Wildcats, some via long distance, whom he knew had given the subject serious thought. He outlined his plan for weighing triggers, which operation would be completed by the end of the third match on the first day. He was receptive to our suggestions and thus incorporated into his memo to competitors the provision that those who wished could have their triggers weighed before firing, with the request that such a desire be stated early enough to be accomplished without holding up firing.

Three trigger weights were available for competitors to check their own triggers unofficially, the enforcement operation went off smoothly, no one was disqualified for having a light trigger, and Bob came through the ordeal with "flying colors." Our committee chairman is genuinely concerned about the wishes of the shooters. Quoting from his memo to competitors: "It is my personal feeling that the NRA Smallbore, Rules and Executive Committees do not feel that the present (trigger) rule is necessarily the ultimate solution to the problem, but rather a step in that direction. The NRA and tournament sponsors are no longer condoning rule breaking, and are therefore in a much better position to move forward toward whatever is the ultimate best for the Smallbore game. My questions to you are: Where do we go from here? What do you suggest? What is best for the Smallbore game?"

New officers of the Western Wildcats Rifle Club (an organization composed of smallbore shooters from all states west of the Mississippi), elected at the annual dinner-meeting on March 2nd, are: President, Howard Smith, Des Moines, Iowa (manu-

facturer of 10-X coats); Vice President, Joe Specht, Fresno, Calif.; Sec.-Treas., Grace Stidworthy, Prescott, Ariz., and George Stidworthy, Executive Officer. Raymond Sargent, Houston, Tex., Paul Dodge, Yreka, Calif., and Grant Sanborn, Twin Falls, Idaho were named to the Executive Committee.

HERE AND THERE—Late entrants had to be turned away as the Rippowam Rifle & Gun Club of Stamford, Conn. hosted a capacity crowd of 140 at their non-registered gallery match, where set triggers were the order of the day, on Feb. 16-17. This shoot has come a long way since its inception three years ago with 49 competitors. New Yorkers accounted for 29 of the entries, with three from New Jersey.

Walter Horvay, West Goshen, Conn., led in the first two matches, scoring 197 in the 4-position match and 198 in the Prone-Standing. Match 3 went to Ken Stannard, Weehawken, N. J., for his 199 Sitting-Kneeling. Gilbert Graziani, Torrington, Conn., claimed both aggregates, winning the agg. of matches 2 and 3 with 393 and being awarded an engraved trophy for his 590 Grand Agg. win. The Offhand re-entry match also went to Graziani with a 96.

The junior program consisted of matches 7-11. In the Prone-Standing, Kenneth Wenman, Stamford, was high with 191. Hans Bosse, Jr., Expert from Brewster, N. Y., captured both the Sitting-Kneeling match—196, and the Junior Agg. with a 381 total, for which he was awarded a Lucite trophy. Joe Svab of the Stratford (Conn.) P. A. L. Club, led the Sub-juniors in their prone match with 196. The junior 4-position team match went to the Stratford P. A. L. #1 team, composed of Karen Carten (184), Harold Noren (191), Steve Metsger (178) and Robert Mottram (173), for their 726 over the 713 fired by the Brunswick School #1 team from Greenwich, Conn.

Sensational news from south of the border reveals that T/Sgt. Edward E. Caygle, Jr., USAF, fired the highest score ever fired in the world over the English Course with a sizzling 599X600 on March 19th in Reynosa, Mexico! Those of you who have fired on the 50-meter ISU target with metallic sights can best appreciate what it means to drop but a single point in 60 shots. This is 4 points higher than the World Record established by Holup of Hungary in Milan in 1959 and which still stands. Had this been accomplished under perfect conditions, it would still require amazing skill. But, the wind velocity was from 8-15 knots and skies were cloudy. All the while a front was moving in due to hit at noon. Firing commenced at 9:00 a. m. and the last shooter finished about 11:45. At 11:55 the wind had increased to 30 knots and was blowing targets in all directions.

Bill Atkinson should be pleased with the performance of his barrel on Ed's BSA Mark II action. Sights and ammo were the same as those listed above with the exception that Caygle uses a .140" aperture in the Freeland front for firing on the ISU targets.

Second place in the English Match went to Olegario Vazquez, director of Prensa Mexico En Guardia of Mexico City, with a 595X600 score. Paulino Diaz of Guadalajara placed third, scoring 591 points. S/Sgt. Allan H. Hannon, USAF, also had a 591 score.

On March 18th, Capt. John T. Bertva, USAF, firing a Hart-40-X in a free rifle stock with 40-X trigger, was winner of the 3-position ISU match—560X600. Caygle,

with the higher prone score, placed second over Hannon, both with 554. For kneeling and standing, Caygle used a new Anschutz with RWS ammo.

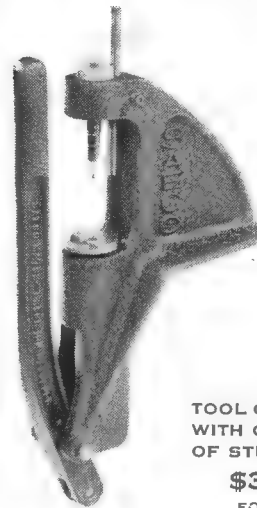
Good competition and the friendliness of our Good Neighbors made this a very fine shoot for the USAF Int'l Smallbore Team members. In addition they were privileged to experience the visit of President Lopez Mateos to Reynosa. The match was used to settle the unbreakable ties for places on the Mexican Pan-Am team and, as would be expected, their top shooters were competing. Dr. Jose Saenz Canales, the Mexican English Match Champion from Tampico, outpointed Dr. Roberto de la Garza, Mexico City, breaking the tie for the place on the Pan-Am Team. . . . Award ceremonies were a gala occasion with bands and festivities, and were broadcast over a local radio station.

Air Force shooter Bob Morgan is taking a forced leave of absence from the firing line for a few weeks. After firing 1105, his best score to date, at the monthly ISU match at Lackland on March 9th, Bob went roller skating, fell and broke his wrist. I must observe that the Morgan affinity for skating is proving to be hazardous. In early 1956 Bob's father, Freeman (the Md. State Smallbore Champ), was offering to trade a slightly used cast for a new 52-C. He had arranged a skating party to promote more social activity in the Greenbelt Gun Club. You guessed it—he fell and broke his leg. And, when those Morgans fall, they have a long way to fall!



Gary Olson

Gary Olson has done it again! After losing his Nat'l Junior 4-position outdoor record of 775, this 18-year-old Occidental College student is now co-holder (with Frank Briggs and W. Roos) of the Open and Civilian 4-position metallic Indoor Records! His 395 also entitled him to co-holdership of the Nat'l Junior Record held by Roos. This flashy brand of shooting stole the show, both literally and figuratively, at the second annual Arizona State Gallery Tournament held in Mesa on March 23-24, where Gary won the overall aggregate with 1177X1200. High resident with 1168 was Dr. Leonard Brewster, former Apache junior star, now practising dentistry in Tucson. May Mickelsen, Univ. of Ariz. student, with 1148, won the Hi Lady award.



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According to reports, Phoenix police-man David Cesena established 7 new Police Records at this tournament. In the 4-position metallic, he was clean prone and sitting, but had bad luck standing when he didn't get all of his shots off. In the any sight sitting, he had 200+15 10's. He finished up with 1145 . . . C. Quesnoy, of the San Francisco bay area, broke the 20-shot Open and Civilian metallic Kneeling Record with 200+4 10's, 2 more 10's than the former record . . . Olson won the Any Sight Offhand match with 190. Quesnoy took the Any Sight Agg. with 786 and Olson was 1st Expert with 782 . . . Capt. J. Eb-

(Continued on Page Sixteen)

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The Palmer, Alaska, Rifle Club's gallery rifle team which won the Inland Empire Postal League class AA trophy in 1962. Left to right are: Perley Jones, Noel Woods, Scott Donaldson, Carol Jones, Dan Contini and Bud Ertwine.

Random Shots

(Continued from Page Fifteen)

erwine, USA, whose name is familiar to many of us, just happened to be passing through Phoenix, heard about the tournament, and went out even though his shooting equipment was elsewhere. He borrowed an outfit and fired 1146. We hear that he tied one of the Service Records, but we are unable to verify which one.

This seems to have been quite a successful tournament, with about 60 competitors. While it was in progress at the Nat'l Guard Armory, the Ariz. State Assoc. Board of Directors held a meeting at the same location. Shooting in Arizona is on the upswing, and we wish them all success in their future programs. . . . A High Power tournament was held in Phoenix on March 31st, the proceeds of which will be used to send a junior to Camp Perry. Certificates of appreciation were given in lieu of awards. That's a good idea for other clubs to adopt!

On Feb. 23-24 and March 2-3, 159 individuals and 75 2-man (or girl) teams fired in the annual South. Calif. Jr. Rifle League's 4-position gallery match. Gary Olson again made headlines. Teamed up with 17-year-old Douglas Spencer, Sierra Madre, they smashed the 2-man team 40-shot 4-position National Junior Metallic Sight Record with their 775 score, 7 points over the former record. The score is also 2 points higher than the existing Jr. Any Sight Record for the same course of fire. Their combined total was 390 for Doug and 385 for Gary. . . . This Olson fellow seems to shoot best under adverse situations. When he fired this record, his eyes were blurring as he had just come from having

contact lenses fitted. He hadn't become accustomed to the contacts when he went to Ariz., and used dark green sun glasses to equal the Nat'l Open (indoor) Record, as his clear prescription glasses vanished from the athletic field two days before, while he was working out on the track.

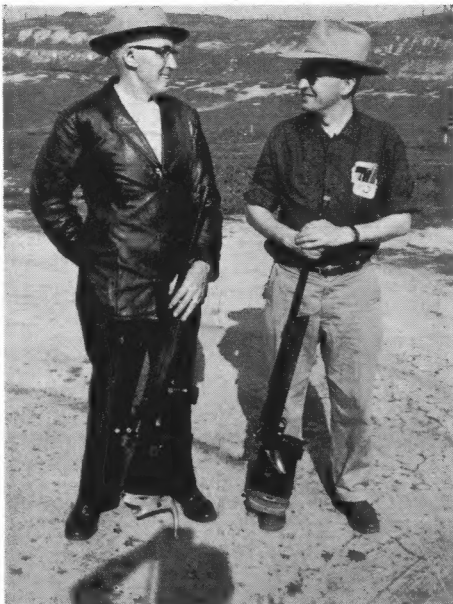
Top individual honors in this junior tournament went to Bob Randall, South Coast Gun Club, with 390X400. Gary Olson's 388 was good for 1st Master. Tom Whitaker, South Coast, was 2nd Master with 386, and Doug Spencer was 3rd with 385. Sharon Stagers, high scoring girl, from Woodland Hills Rifle Club, tallied 380, and Paul Jessup, San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, was high unclassified with 382. . . . There was a three-way-tie for 1st Expert between Kirk Clyman and Susan Meek, San Gabriel Valley, and Robert Smith of Lock Stock and Barrel Club, all posting 377's. Clyman won out with the high OH score of 87.

"Pappy" Giles, instructor at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, is largely responsible for Gary and Doug's winning ways. Both boys shoot 52-C heavy barrels, Redfield Int'l rear and Bell front sights (Doug uses a Redfield X-tube). Gary fired Mark III and Doug, Expert ammo.

Naturally I am pleased when one of my predictions materializes, but in this case I am delighted (to put it mildly)—Harlon B. Carter is the new Vice President of the NRA! For the benefit of you who do not know him personally, let me assure you that he is a real friend of the shooters, being a shooter himself. He is retiring as Chairman of the High Power Committee, is a former Chairman of the Pistol Committee, having been a competitor in both for a number of years. He is also a member of the Los Angeles Rifle & Revolver Club, and fires smallbore with us when he is not elsewhere occupied in his capacity as Southwest Regional Director of the Immigration Service. He sees things from a shooter's viewpoint, and his election is the best thing that could happen to the shooting game.

It is with sincere regret that we report the recent fatal heart attack suffered by Emil Liszal of Austin, Texas. He was a fine smallbore competitor, and will be missed particularly at tournaments in his state where he was well-known and respected.

Aficionados of both prone and Int'l find their niche in the Bayou Rifles Smallbore Division's spring program. Houston finally had a break on the weather during the Feb. and March approved tournaments. On the week-end of Feb. 10-11, Ed Caygle made a clean sweep of the ISU position, the English Match, and the Double Dewar. He edged Allan Hannon, USAF, in the ISU position—1111-22X to 1111-16X, over 18 competitors. Robert Morgan, USAF, placed third with 1068-15X, and junior Robert Perkins was in 4th spot and High Civilian with 1068-5X. . . . Hannon with 592 placed second to Caygle's 595 in the English Match. Bill Clark, USAF, with 590, followed, and again Robert Perkins' 584 was 4th and High Civilian. Twenty-four shooters fired the English Match and Double Dewar, Caygle's score in the latter being 598-57X. High Civilian Inez Sargent came in second, 598-55X, over Hannon's 597-56X. The floating trophy awarded Bayou Rifles members on a handicap basis went to Inez . . . Walter Irvin, Houston, tallying 743-19X, took the 4-position match on Feb. 24th over junior Fred King, Houston, who was High Expert with 740-17X.



California civilian Free Rifle shooters, Chris Petersen (left) and Merrill Martin.

The March 9th ISU position match went to A/3 William H. Clark's 1072, followed by A/1 Raymond Lewis' 1065. Both are from Lackland AFB. Marksmen David Bramzon and Margie Follmar, Houston, were first and second civilians, respectively, with 970 and 956 scores. Twenty-six were entered, including competitors from Barksdale AFB, La., Bergstrom AFB, Carswell AFB, and civilians from Ft. Worth and Austin . . . Lewis was high in the English Match on March 10th, scoring 590 ahead of Inez Sargent's 582, with 32 competitors. The Double Dewar went for a 795, fired by Earlton Smith, Austin, Raymond Sargent was 1st Civilian with 794, and James McLucas, Carswell AFB, was High Military with 793.

We would be remiss if we did not at least bring to your attention the monthly bulletin of the Mother Lode Gun Club of Sonora, Calif., by far the "liveliest" club bulletin around. If the editor's colorful sense of humor and folksy chatter are indicative of their club spirit, it must surely be a rip-snortin' club. I quote at random from his account of their St. Patrick's Day .30 Caliber Match: "To try (a difficult task indeed) to elaborate a bit on our comment 'a dirty sloppy mess' . . . it was just exactly THAT the morning of the 17th of March. The man whose birthday was celebrated on that day, on that Green-Go-Go day was noted for leading (or did he drive them?) all of the snakes out of Ireland. If old St. Pat had been in Tuolumne County that very morning in 19-hundred and sixty three he would have himself left the country or at least have taken refuge in the nearest pub next to a warm stove . . . Not so with the rifle shooters! . . . The day started out with snow doing its best to change the garb of dame nature that morning at 7:00 AM sharp. By 9:00 A. M., commencement time at the old noise factory snow was in season and was in prominence like a Dior Original on Zazu Pitts. Just about as cold . . . too!"

"All shooters experienced trouble with snow clogging the sights. One rawboned individual had a flake land on his rear sight during rapid fire. In trying to blow it out with baited breath he accidentally spit through his front bridgework further complicating the dilemma by loosening the bridgework sufficiently as to cause him to

(Continued on Page Eighteen)

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Random Shots

(Continued from Page Seventeen)
bite his own thumb. Deucedly embarrass-
ing! What followed melted the utterly de-
fenseless snowflake post-haste. Nuff said!"

This is the editor whose compliment
to PRECISION SHOOTING went like
this—: "Jimmy Fidler would fiddle up a
storm over this one!"

Searching among the snowdrifts, we
find the winner, Dean Alley, who, appar-
ently was oblivious to the blizzard around
him when he fired 98-5 Offhand, 50-7 Slow
Sitting, 49-5 Rapid Prone, and 49-1 Rapid
Sitting, for a very warm 246-18V score. . .
There is quite a group of rugged individual-
ists up among those hills. When Bill Kava-
naugh, Sonora, and Mel Rowan, of Oak-
dale, were tied up for second place with
239-12Xs, did they follow the Creedmoor
system outlined in the rule book? Of
course not—not to the letter! Being rebels
at heart, they like their own system better,
for firing done at one range (100-yds)—i. e.,
highest score in offhand, rapid sitting, rapid
prone, slow prone, in that order, serve to
break ties. "Contestants still tied after all
this work will be asked to go some place
else and shoot!" Kavanaugh won out with
92-4 Offhand to Rowan's 91-3, so there
wasn't so much work after all, and neither
man will have to look for another place to
shoot.

Note: We assume that the Offhand
match was slow-fire, as the only phase of
Rule 15.7 with which the Mother Lode
Club disagrees is that they feel that all Off-
hand scores should be considered first in
tie-breaking, rather than taking all rapid
first and then slow fire.

JUST 'SPECULATIN'—I wonder why a
highly capable Int'l shooter, who has com-
peted in all of the CISM matches (Conseil
International du Sports Militaire) and who
placed well in the tryouts, was "bumped"
from the Cairo team. The NRA Executive
Committee authorized a 4-man 300-meter
team and a 4-man smallbore rifle 3-position
team, yet our 7-man team of rifle shooters
was one shy. I know the answer to this
puzzler. Just want you, who are respon-
sible for diminishing the meager depth of
our team to know that you aren't fooling
everyone!

I can just visualize a certain sly fox
licking his chops following the success of

his surreptitious maneuver to disqualify un-
suspecting shooters. Mr. Fox, you can't
control every tournament, and I'm really
surprised at you—you failed to specify a
penalty in Rule 18.5, section (e). Can't
help wondering why this new section was
not included in the list of ALL new rules
and rule changes in the February RIFLE-
MAN.

I wonder why a certain NRA Official
Referee, who was reportedly not even pres-
ent on the day that a certain National
Record was fired, elected to re-score the
targets, subtracting 4Xs, even though there
was no challenge on the score. Is that le-
gal???

I am also wondering why a certain
National Aggregate Record, fired July 15,
1961, has not been recognized. Rule 17.6
is in effect now, so it's high time there was
a little recognition!

If our honorable President (and I don't
mean the Pres. of NRA) does not take
steps to appropriate new funds to replenish
those exhausted by the Cuban crisis and the
invasion of Mississippi, our Olympic shoot-
ing program is going down the drain!!! . . .
It is reported that Gary Anderson's dean is
permitting him to compete in the forthcom-
ing Pan-Am Games but, in order to gradu-
ate, he must pass up the 1964 Olympics. . .
It was necessary for the four Army Int'l
shooters who competed in Phoenix to pay
their own expenses from Ft. Benning.
(Just picture three long-legged shooters and
one, whose legs are not so long, riding
across country in a compact car straddling
four sets of shooting equipment. Expense
also involved new tires in El Paso. And,
all for the love of shooting—plus the desire
to avail themselves of additional competitive
experience.)

A myriad of reactions is still erupting
from the Volcano known as Rule 9.14!
Guess we'll have to save them until next
month, or Phil would have to print a special
supplement. Until then?

LATE MATCH NEWS: The Pacific
Southwest Smallbore Regional at Fresno,
California on April 6 and 7 had 107 com-
petitors. Vic Auer won the aggregate with
3194, Mike Allen 2nd with 3193 and George
Stidworthy 3rd with 3192.

The California State Muzzle Loader
Championships were held at Fresno the fol-
lowing week, April 9 through 13. Leslie
Stephenson retained most of his State
Championships but runner-up spots were
well distributed this year. More detail on
these two matches next month.

Random Shots editor has been prom-
ised reports of the Pan-Am shooting events
by an on-the-spot observer. We hope she
won't be disappointed and that the reports
may be received for use in next month's
magazine.

SHOOTING IN THE DARK: Some-
thing new in trap shooting was demonst-
rated at St. Paul, Minnesota in February—
night shooting with a minimum of lighting.
Both the clay targets and the shot pellets
are coated with a reflective product, simi-
lar to that used on many highway signs.
Light from behind the shooter, auto head-
lights will do, is reflected from both the
clay target and the shot charge. It is re-
ported that good scores were made at this
demonstration. We'll probably be hearing
much more about this new development.
It would seem that this type of shooting
might be valuable for training and for dis-
covering shooter faults in trap shooting.

REPORTS of use-tests of some good new
products next month—for sure.

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ALUMINUM BLACKENING SOLUTION

Since aluminum is used on certain gun parts, notably on slides of auto pistols handling .22 short, a blackening solution is very useful to blacken worn surfaces. But you will ask for it in vain in sporting goods and hardware stores. There is plenty of dope for blackening iron and steel, but nothing for aluminum. However, for some years now, this product has been available from BIRCHWOOD CHEMICAL CO., Inc., Hopkins, Minnesota. Years ago I obtained a bottle of it somewhere, and having exhausted it, wrote to the Birchwood Company and they sent me another. Cost is \$1.50 for a 2-oz. bottle. The stuff will also blacken steel. It works very well on aluminum, as evidenced by its action on the slide of my Hi-Standard pistol.

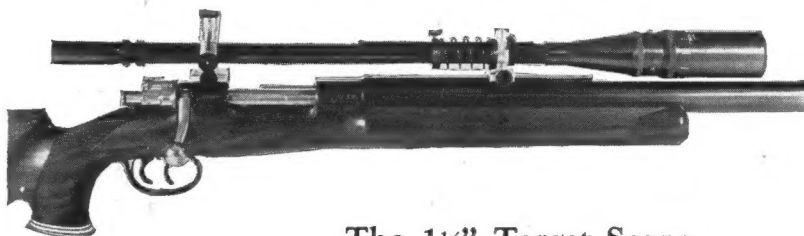
It seems that aluminum is more and more invading the territory of steel. I recently found the rear sight of a light rifle stamped out of aluminum. A bottle of this aluminum blackener would seem to be a necessary addition to shooting supplies.

William E. Peterson

"MAK HA MOSHUN" By Ted Smith

You really couldn't say I was raised by people who didn't care; it was more circumstances. My folks were hard working people, both trying to hold down a job with not much time to listen to the complaints of a small boy. They passed me on into the capable hands of a young bride who soon made it clear I better not complain and she sent me along to the Marine Corps where I found it didn't do any good to complain. As a happy recruit I still felt the urge and often picked some unsuspecting friend to tell my tales of woe. I remember one fellow in particular. He was my landlord at the time, while I was stationed at Santa Barbara. I lived ashore but I was forced to keep a sack made up and ready for inspection, or else! I thought this was wrong and was telling him

TELESCOPES For Target Shooting



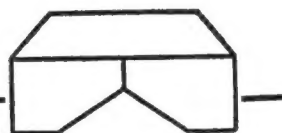
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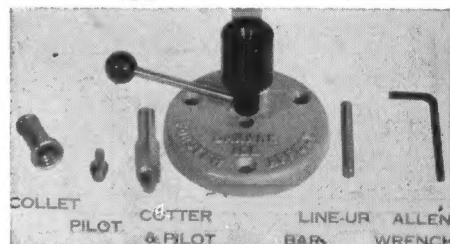
so. I can still remember his answer, with his funny little accent, "Vell, nex time hu haf meeting vy don hu mak a moshun?" I told him I sure would. I didn't think there was any use to explain to him about the Marine card system, with the Chaplain holding the only punch.

Grandfather Smith was a southern gentleman, very religious, and a graduate of West Point. He knew about the card system and was against voting. Father graduated from a school of hard knocks and was a strong believer not only in a man's rights to vote but in feeling that it was a man's duty to vote. At ninety-three years of age he never misses the opportunity to go to the polls. Naturally there was a little friction between them on the subject. Grandfather would say, "I wouldn't vote for a scoundrel." Whereupon father would explain that all politicians were not scoundrels. "Well then," Grandfather would retort, "I wouldn't vote for a man and make one out of him." I guess I came up about half way between. As Bob Hope said, "Every man has an equal vote, the bad thing is that the Kennedys have us outnumbered." All kidding aside, I think that voting is a sacred trust and that we have the finest bunch of men in Washington that money can buy. I did not say and sometimes does.

Our little association is rather far flung, and it is difficult to get together and either propose motions or have the opportunity to vote. We don't get to know the scoundrels who are running for office, and can't discuss the issues with them. Precision Shooting is a mighty fine little whipping boy, a place to air our views, discuss our problems and make recommendations. Phil prints just about everything you fellows send in so why not take advantage of this method of communication. Personal remarks should not be derogatory, suggestions should be constructive, and if you just want to gripe be sure to send along your card. I'm sure Phil will punch it for you. He's a real democratic sort of an editor and that's the way we should all be. After all, the other fellow has a right to his views. What's that? You think he should give less space to this kind of writing. Well, here's a thought. "Nex time ve haf a meeting vy don hu mak ha moshun?"

NEW

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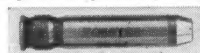


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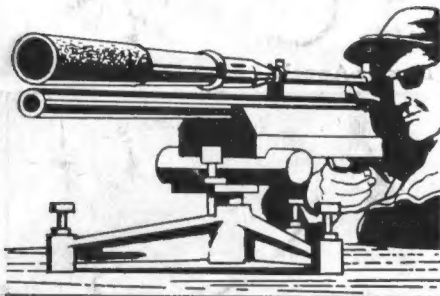
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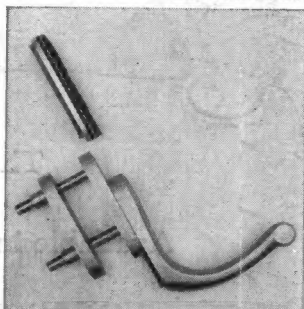
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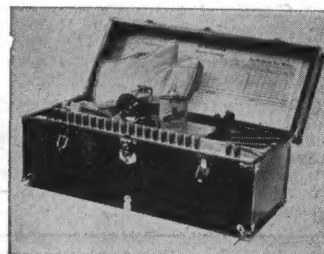
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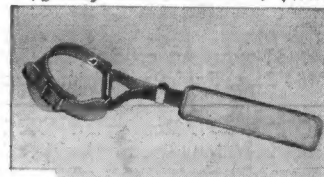
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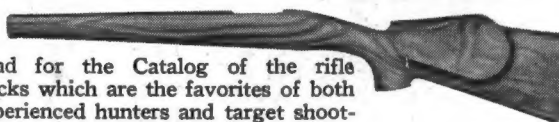
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